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Costa Rican Initiative on Caribbean, Latin American Banana Dispute Noted

FL020521693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1704 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 2, CANA—A senior Costa Rican diplomat is visiting the Windward Islands as part of an initiative by the Central American state to find a solution to a dispute among Caribbean and Latin American countries over the sale of bananas in Europe.

Maria Elena Chassoul, Costa Rica's ambassador to Jamaica, held talks here Friday [30 April] with Dominica's External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne.

The dispute stems from an unsuccessful campaign thus far by Latin American banana exporting countries to get the European Community to adopt a free trade regime for the sale of bananas in the single European market.

The decision of the Latins to challenge the retention of protection for Caribbean producers in a new trade system taking effect from July, has led to angry Accusations From Windward Islands governments that the Latins want to drive them out of their traditional market.

Alleyne said the Costa Rican envoy expressed the view that Caribbean and Latin American banana producing countries should try to arrive at a mutual understanding as to how best they together can all take advantage of the European market, instead of fighting against each other.

"We in Dominica agree with this approach and we feel that it is necessary to find ways of doing this if it is possible," he said.

"We have agreed that we would take initiatives, we on the side of Caricom [Caribbean Community], and the Costa Rican ambassador on the side of Central America, to bring the parties together to begin exploring these possibilities."

Alleyne expressed optimism a mutually beneficial arrangement would result from such a move.

Canada To Provide Money To Assist 'Wider Caribbean Region'

FL0105002593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 30, CANA—The Government of Canada said on Friday it would provide Can.4.4 million dollars over the next five years to assist "the wider Caribbean region" through the Caribbean Community [Caricom] Secretariat.

The money is going to a project to strengthen the secretariat's "institutional capacity to initiate, plan and execute development, economic and social policies and studies on a regional basis", according to a statement circulated by the Canadian High Commission here.

"The funds will also be used to assist member states in their implementation of Caricom decisions."

The project, which will be funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will be referred to as "CRISP", a shorter version of its formal title, the "Caricom Institutional Strengthening Project".

The Caricom Secretariat will be the executing agency for the project.

"The implementation of CRISP is in keeping with the widespread acceptance in the Caribbean that regional cooperation is essential to the national development of the Caribbean countries," according to the statement.

"It is intended that this Canadian support will assist Caricom to strengthen its regional capacity in planning and implementation."

Cuba

Workers Federation Secretary General Gives 1 May Speech, Denounces Embargo

FL0105165393 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1310 GMT 1 May 93

[Speech by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation and a Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba, at Jose Marti Revolution Square in Havana City—live]

[Text] Comrades: To those who try to give us lessons in democracy, to those who invent and repeat fallacies against our political system, to those who talk about a lack of human rights in Cuba and at the same time are accomplices of a genocide embargo, we would like to be able to see them here and dare them to defend their calumny, infamy, cowardice, or, at most, their irresponsible ignorance before this people, who, with their conscious presence, will write today, before the venerated image of our Jose Marti and in a symbolic hug with our Fidel, a new page of its history and glory.

The master [Marti] said that to hastily respond to false attacks does nothing more than strengthen them and it is a great resource, in politics, to give these false stories time to die. Because of Marti's teachings, we do not become desperate in the face of infamy, which for as much as it is repeated and expanded, will never make great strides in history. Evidence of this is that the more virulent the campaigns of defamation against the revolution are, more encouraging becomes the presence here of so many worthy representatives of the poor people of the world, with whom we have cast our lot. Some of them have even dared to come from the very guts of the empire. Representatives of compatriots have not only joined us but also confronted with dignity the imperial power and the anti-Cuban worms. With deep gratitude, we are touched by your presence. You are friends of solidarity and loyal brothers who have come from near and far to join with our people, whom you admire, esteem, and support, in the way your modest but growing forces can in the fight against the criminal embargo for independence, for the right to decide our destiny and build our own future in peace.

Who among our detractors, old and new, have the political courage, the morals, or the convoking ability to meet with their own people in a public square on a day like today? Who of those who slander us or constantly pressure us to take steps toward a so-called return to a democratic system could identify themselves with the workers, humble people, with the overwhelming majority of their own people? These great labor masses, who, here in revolutionary and socialist Cuba, resist and fight, are the ones who are in power, rule, and fully exercise their patriotic, political, and human rights. The kind of fight waged when the truth is being told hurts many of them who do not want to or dare recognize that the Cuban reality, above all and despite everything, is the expression of a true democracy constantly being improved on. It is a lot more participatory and advanced than a lot of the worn-out, and in the great majority of cases, disparaged bourgeois models at least. For us, this could never mean the future because it is part of the ignominious past, which will never return.

This very combative people, who will march here as well as throughout the length and breadth of Cuba, were the protagonist of an extraordinary political victory at the ballot boxes on 24 February. Therefore, to reaffirm the overwhelming majority of the people's support for their revolutionary projects, there is no reason for a giant mobilization, such as this one, in the midst of the very difficult conditions of the special period if it were not for the specific goal of taking advantage of this occasion. This has been the purpose and nature of this gathering: to demonstrate our most energetic protest, our indignant repudiation, and our renewed demands, more and more understood and supported by the world that once and for all the absurd, anachronistic, and backbreaking embargo, which has caused innumerable sacrifices and suffering to our people, stop immediately.

For almost one-third of a century, eight U.S. Administrations have maintained a hostile attitude toward Cuba, which has ended in the present stalemate between both countries. During this very long period, Washington authorities have not only tried to explain their policy of isolation toward Cuba with reasons that have been changing with time but always rejected the proposals that on numerous occasions the Cuban Government put forth to discuss and find mutually acceptable solutions to the issues under litigation. Cuba has only asked to be able to attend any meeting on a level of equality, and therefore, on the basis of mutual respect for Cuban independence and sovereignty. Certainly, for our part, we have never tried to attack or dominate the United States.

Nevertheless, the very same White House, through which these eight previous U.S. Governments to the present have passed, has been a silent witness to the very contrary attitude that generally prevailed there against Cuba and the plans that were forged or approved there to—even by using the most abhorrent methods—attempt to overthrow the revolution.

The core of this sustained and unsuccessful aggressive policy has been the economic, trade, and financial siege, which from the beginning of the sixties has hung over our heads. At first, it was disguised in the language of the so-called bilateral embargo. Later, as the so-called Torricelli Law, it showed the world by becoming an intensified embargo of the official state policy, which breaks all the legal standards established internationally to guarantee the civilized coexistence of mankind.

Since the beginning of this policy in Washington, it has been inspired by the same cynical purpose of causing domestic difficulties in Cuba, to make the daily life of the workers and the rest of the population difficult to

reduce support for the revolutionary process. This aim, which has essentially not changed over time, grew during the Reagan administration and reached its climax during the Bush administration, which, unaware of our immense moral reserves and guided only by cold and mistaken calculations, thought that we would not be able to resist the historical test that derived from the disappearance of markets and trade conditions that over 30 years allowed us to look for alternatives to the fundamental consequences of the embargo, through our fraternal and mutually advantageous relations with the former Soviet Union and the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

For us, this is a process in which the effects of this unjustified policy of siege, sponsored by the United States, have significantly damaged the living standards of our people; have decisively contributed to halting industries, the downturn of our agricultural, livestock, social, and economic plans in general; have hampered and blocked all our efforts to obtain supplies, export our products, attract investments, and even acquire urgently needed medicine. This systematic and ironclad U.S. policy of embargo and isolation, maintained for years, has violated the most essential human rights of millions of Cuban children, women, and elderly. The embargo has even violated our right to work, which under different conditions would have made it impossible to feed and educate our children. If the difficulties are not bigger, it is only thanks to the fact that we have an authentic revolution and in virtue of this a humane and fair social system that protects us and gives us strength.

Despite every criminal effort of the empire, the immense majority of the workers and all the people, as can be seen again in this gigantic rally, continue to march alongside the revolution, the party of Marti, and Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Cuba, with our beloved Commander in Chief Fidel. This revolutionary government—legitimately founded, formed, and elected in accordance with the Cuban Constitution and laws and which by our will and for our pride Fidel leads—is a true exponent for the time in the history of Cuba of the true national independence and sovereignty. These are sacred principles that we will never relinquish even if, to continue to defend them, we have to face even harsher and more difficult tests than those we have overcome so far. [applause]

The present U.S. Administration has proclaimed the beginning of a new era of government, a new ethic in the beliefs and behavior of the leader of the United States to face, among others, the serious problems inherited from the irresponsible actions of previous administrations. Keeping in mind these pronouncements and in accordance with the traditional Cuban attitude—open to any positive calling in our relations with the United States, although without getting our hopes up unless they are sustained by concrete facts—the Cuban workers expect and rightfully demand from the new U.S. Administration not to repeat the same mistakes of its predecessors, to think through with realism, maturity, and unhurriedly the policy to follow regarding Cuba and to end the embargo, the failed policy of hostility and threats and the international anti-Cuban campaign that for over three decades has been sponsored by successive Yankee governments.

As Marti said: Cowardice and indifference can never be the laws of mankind. For this reason, the peoples and especially the workers from many nations and different parts of the world—so very well represented here today together with us—every day feel closer to the Cuban cause.

The solidarity we receive today not only represents moral support and material help; it also—and this might be its most important strategic significance—forms part of the opposition and the growing fight against the embargo at a universal level. We will continue resisting. We will continue fighting.

Now, we are also facing an illness on which there is not enough medical knowledge, although it is known in the world, to fight it with the speed and efficiency we desire. As we have informed, in our country it has presented itself in an unusual way because of its extension and acuteness. We are talking about optic neuritis. We have not skimped resources in the purchase and production of equipment, of raw materials for the production of medicines and chemical reactors for the research for its treatment.

All the Cuban medical-scientific potential is working on this research and on the application of treatments that demonstrate its efficiency without wasting any time. Our remarkable health system is working to detect early those affected. All the provinces have already received the vitamin complex that will be given to all our citizens free as a preventive measure. Our people believe and trust that they are protected and that we will be able to discover, in the shortest time possible, all the facts that we still do not know on the origin and propagation of this illness, which does not exclude justified suspicions due to the proven precedents on the criminal introduction of epidemics into Cuba.

We are recovering as best we can with our capability and efforts and to some degree with the generous help from various countries and international movements, from the disastrous effects of the winter storm that caused damages valued at more than 1 billion pesos and added new suffering to the population of the provinces that were affected.

We continue and will continue to fight to complete the sugar harvest to the last day, through June, July, or as long as it is necessary. We are fighting a heroic battle in a terribly difficult year in which the weather and adverse natural phenomena have been added to the enormous lack of resources. Never has a country faced so many and severe difficulties at the same time. Unfortunately, the sugar harvest will not be as we had hoped, which was so necessary but we will do what we can to cut, grind, and extract all the sugar that is possible up to the last sugar

cane that is found and until it is necessary, despite the rain and the lack of fuel, tires, batteries, and all types of resources. We have more than enough courage and will to work, fight, and succeed. [applause]

We know that in some aspects that are sensitive to our people we have not passed the worst moment yet. The embargo remains and it is being reinforced by blackmail and all types of pressures to try to choke us and break our heroic resistance. The difficulties may be even greater in the coming months but we are prepared and determined to face all the sacrifices that are necessary. No one nor anything will be able to make us kneel. This is our strongest determination, our obligation with history, and the only alternative to save the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism.

In face of these colossal challenges and difficulties we express our conviction. We express the undeclinable commitment of the workers, who will be able to overcome the current situation with persistent resistance, fighting hard, using their creative abilities, with consecration and efficiency, and with absolute trust in their intelligence, their principles, and Fidel; we will surpass this. [applause]

Cuba will not fail! Cuba will not abandon the cause! Cuba will win! Socialism or death, fatherland or death. We will win!

'Bilateral Character' of U.S. Embargo, Fall of Socialist Bloc Viewed

FL3004140893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] No one with a sound mind in the world can understand how an act, let us say simply accidental, like the birth of a child in Cuba, can carry a hard punishment for the only reason of belonging to a small country embargoed by the most powerful nation in history. It is as if this child born in Cuba carried in himself an original sin that can only be washed away through the renouncing baptism of his elders to a standard of behavior or by treason.

The embargo has this objective: to eliminate without regards of the means used the principles that sustain our ethic and economic projects. The economic embargo against Cuba by the United States is essentially inhumane. It has always been thus and if there was a time when we could get around it, it was because our relations with the Socialist Bloc allowed it. After the collapse, socialism is seen as being the victim of a terminal cancer, where, in the case of Cuba, it has no other choice when the supposed metastasis is completed. This has happened many times.

The Cuban economy, despite having evolved better than other underdeveloped economies in the previous decade, also suffered sudden attacks of a foreign character of dependent economies, the foreign debt, the deterioration of trade terms, and low prices of its main exports at approximately 25 percent. With the elimination of our preferential markets with the Socialist Bloc, the damage in international relations in the area of trade extend throughout all of transactions, with the additional aggravation of the criminal embargo.

Theorizers and policy makers of the U.S. Administration have calculated that the very tensions of this very complex situation, which Cuba is going through, offered new opportunities to promote subversion on the island and attempt to conquer it by hunger, dismantle the social accomplishments, and erase its example. The losses caused to the Cuban economy during three decades by the U.S. embargo reach $40 billion, according to general calculations by Cuban economists.

On 29 April, during a workshop on the consequences of the embargo, held by Cuban and foreign trade union members, the aggressive character of this measure of force imposed on Cuba was discussed. There, in this workshop of labor representatives, researchers at the Higher Institute of Economic Research explained the fallacy of the so-called bilateral character of the embargo as a conflict between the United States and Cuba, since the official measures adopted by the White House are related to and affect third party countries which attempt to trade with our country.

The Cuban people, convinced of the justice of their cause, will never renounce the principles of self-determination and independence nor stop defending the socialist accomplishments achieved. Tomorrow, 1 May, we, the workers, will be at the plaza to defend them. It is that simple.

FAR Holds Military Ethics, Professionalism Workshop

FL3004224193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A workshop on military ethics and professionalism has ended at the General Antonio Maceo Interservice School of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] in this capital. The meeting summed up a work period that began in 1990 to research and seek theoretical and practical answers regarding ethical aspects and the professionalism of FAR cadres at an officer training center.

Experiences and the results of research into military conduct in specialties such as leadership and administration, policy, troop training, logistics, and others were expounded upon during the workshop. Theoretical and methodological foundations of these topics were discussed, as were the history and traditions of our military personnel.

Principal FAR chiefs and delegations from other Cuban military schools and academies participated in the discussions that occupied all the center's elective time.

Temporary Energy Commission Formed in Cienfuegos Province

FL3004120393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0136 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Upon forming the temporary commission that is to analyze the energy program, Cienfuegos Province has reported on its work experiences in that important sphere, experiences that so greatly affect the population's life. Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and president of the temporary commission formed by this supreme body, presided over the meeting. This commission will report on the energy program at our parliament's next period of sessions.

(Milagro Contesinos), the engineer who is chief of the energy sector in Cienfuegos, and Eugenio Mainegra, who is vice president of the national temporary commission, gave the first speeches and provided ample information on what is being done regarding energy and the solutions being sought to use energy more efficiently.

This group that has been formed in Cienfuegos will promote the population's participation in the tasks of saving and making more efficient use of energy.

* Election Result Statistics Reported

93CA0095A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 11, 12 Mar 93 p 39

[Table of Statistics for 24 February National Assembly Elections by Province]

[Text]

Official Final Results of the Elections for Parliamentary Deputies, National Electoral Commission

Province	Ballots Cast	Valid Ballots Cast	Percent	Breakdown of Valid Ballots				Breakdown of Invalid Ballots			
				In Favor of All	Percent	Selectively Cast	Percent	Blank Ballots	Percent	Annulled Ballots	Percent
Pinar del Rio	510,551	476,732	93.38	457,157	95.89	19,575	4.11	21,363	4.18	12,456	2.44
Havana	503,211	439,570	87.35	413,853	94.15	25,717	5.85	22,575	4.49	41,066	8.16
City of Havana	1,607,173	1,370,319	85.26	1,241,962	90.63	128,357	9.37	70,956	4.39	166,258	10.34
Matanzas	476,600	443,346	93.02	419,307	94.58	24,039	5.42	15,825	3.32	17,429	3.66
Cienfuegos	281,053	266,926	94.97	255,108	95.57	11,818	4.43	8,081	2.88	6,046	2.15
Villa Clara	613,616	571,299	93.10	543,132	95.07	28,167	4.93	24,170	3.94	18,147	2.96
Sancti Spiritus	327,692	314,695	96.03	300,896	95.62	13,799	4.38	8,052	2.46	4,945	1.51
Ciego de Avila	276,274	264,514	95.74	251,788	95.19	12,276	4.81	7,114	2.57	4,646	1.68
Camaguey	537,557	510,574	94.98	485,815	95.15	24,759	4.85	14,284	2.66	12,699	2.36
Las Tunas	356,172	349,534	98.14	343,743	98.34	5,791	1.66	4,566	1.28	2,072	0.58
Holguin	718,815	686,332	95.48	661,487	96.38	24,845	3.62	20,186	2.81	12,297	1.71
Granma	560,846	553,053	98.61	544,002	98.36	9,051	1.64	5,444	0.97	2,349	0.42
Santiago de Cuba	692,228	673,355	97.27	652,055	96.84	21,300	3.16	10,474	1.51	8,399	1.21
Guantanamo	333,471	326,699	97.97	319,181	97.70	7,518	2.30	4,231	1.27	2,541	0.76
Isle of Youth	57,056	53,681	94.08	50,408	93.30	3,273	6.10	1,637	2.87	1,738	3.05
Nationwide	7,852,315	7,300,629	92.97	6,939,894	95.06	360,735	4.94	238,598	3.04	313,088	3.99

* Bus Transportation Problems Detailed

93CA0095B Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 28 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Calixto Ferral]

[Excerpt] Bus service in the capital remains a problem owing to the lack of spare parts, tires, and other accessories. These shortages have caused an appreciable drop in the number of vehicles on the road.

The service currently being provided totals some 10,000 trips a day, one-third of the number in the 1980's, and ridership is currently estimated at 3 million.

The fleet of buses numbers 1,200, only 500 to 550 of which operate daily. This means too many riders per bus, with the resulting overload and abuse, which accelerates wear and causes constant breakdowns.

In light of the current situation, in which our ability to purchase new equipment, spare parts, and accessories is limited, we need to conserve what we have. We need to be harsher on those who make veritable "assaults" on buses before they reach the lines, even forcing open the doors or entering through windows.

Some time ago measures were taken to make up for the shortage. One of them is trolleys, 130 of which are on the road. The Transportation Sector is working with different enterprises to build another 150.

Some 20 trucks have also started carrying passengers, making an average of 150 trips a day so far this year on the most heavily traveled routes. The municipalities of Boyeros, Arroyo, Naranjo, and Cotorro have been outstanding in this respect, and their example deserves to be followed.

At the same time, suburban trains have been started up to cover various routes on the outskirts of the capital: Luyano-Boyeros and Cristina-Guanabo.

The Puente Nuevo support bus terminal has 130 Yugoslav Ikaru vehicles, and the Vibora terminal has 60 Pegasus (donated by Spain), which provide back-up service during rush hours from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays they are used for special purposes: EXPOCUBA and Lenin Park.

Another group of vehicles is used in areas where demand is heavy: Virgen del Camino, 124 and 49, Plaza Roja, El Curita Park, and Salvador Allende and Boyeros. They can back up 70 of the 118 routes in the capital.

Another step that has been taken is to limit the number of passengers on buses; otherwise, the current overload would soon put them out of service. This regulation has led to fewer breakdowns and thus more trips out of the Guanabo, Puente Nuevo, and Vibora terminals.

Bicycles are being taken more seriously now as a viable transportation alternative in this city, where close to 700,000 have been distributed. At present the bay tunnel bicycle-buses average some 350 trips a day, or some 7,900 passengers.

Eight motorboats are also in operation on the Casablanca-Havana, Regla-Casablanca, and Regla-Havana routes, averaging 525 trips a day and carrying some 2,100 bicycles. [passage omitted]

* Workers Rewarded With Hotel Stay

93P20142A

[Editorial Report] Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish of 12 April 1993 on page 2 reports that 360 "outstanding" workers from 18 Ciego de Avila trade unions will be the first guests of the Guitart-Cayo Coco five-star hotel. Trade unions will cover food and lodging expenses for workers and their guests, who will spend three days at the hotel. The Guitart-Cayo Coco, which is being built by UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Workers] workers and contingents from the eastern provinces will have 458 rooms when completed.

GRANMA Notes U.S. Military Maneuvers

FL3004151193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Today, the readers of GRANMA will find, on page 5, extensive information on the 1993 version of the Yankee military maneuvers "Ocean Venture," which will be held mainly in the Caribbean Sea through 25 May. The exercise includes landing and assault operations with offensive actions deep into beach fronts and aerial attacks. According to U.S. military commands, among the land troops that will participate is the 82d Airborne Division, the 101st Air Assault Airborne Division, the 2d Marine Infantry Division, and the 75th Rangers Regiment, while the Air Force is represented by B-52 and B-1B strategic planes. The aircraft carrier CV-66 [America] will also participate.

At the same time, another exercise, Defex II-93, will be held in the region of Guantanamo Navy Base on 3 to 6 May, which will incorporate forces from the continental United States. Noncombat civilian and military personnel will be trained in evacuation procedures. These activities are scheduled three or four days prior to the landing exercise beginning in Puerto Rico.

GRANMA asks, if the cold war is over, if tendencies toward peace are more likely, then why have so many war planes? Why have so many aircraft carriers and nuclear attack submarines in the Caribbean? The article concludes with another question: Against what island are they preparing?

Military Relations With Moscow Viewed

PA3004214093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary: "Russian-Cuban Military Relations"]

[Text] When, early in the 1980's, the top leadership of the Soviet Union informed Cuba it would not help the island in case of a U.S. aggression, the Cuban Government opened a new stage in its relations with Moscow.

The idea, conceived several years earlier, that Cuba should defend itself with its own forces and resources was established.

When Cuba saw Ronald Reagan, the new U.S. President, open the most aggressive stage in U.S.-Cuban relations, Cuba started to transform its military doctrine into the war of all the people. We have been thinking with our own heads for over 10 years, Raul Castro, general of the Army and defense minister, said during an interview with Mario Vasquez Rana, director of the Mexican newspaper EL SOL. During this interview, Castro publicly disclosed the important and bitter Soviet decision that had placed Cuba in an extremely dangerous situation.

From that very moment, the danger of a U.S. attack on Cuba did not diminish, despite the East-West confrontation. But Cuba has consolidated a formidable defensive system that today, more than ever, relies on Cuba's own strength. The independence that Cuba was so proud of all these years and the country's proven capacity to resist and preserve its sovereignty give Cuba the moral right to discuss, under equal terms, the nature of the new military ties with Russia, which inherited the now defunct Soviet Union.

In light of this reality, Havana and Moscow agreed to withdraw gradually the members of the motorized rifle brigade that had been based in Cuba for years. The two governments now debate whether the same will happen to Lourdes, the largest radio electronic monitoring center that the former Soviet Union had abroad and which is said to be responsible for collecting 75 percent of the military strategic information.

Since the ties that Russia established with Cuba were unrelated to ideology and on world market terms, Cuba would have no trouble in maintaining such a facility, used by a nonenemy country, if a mutually profitable agreement were reached. The permanence of the Lourdes center would not be a unilateral Cuban decision with regard to the United States because it is precisely this powerful nation that spies on every movement on the island and illegally occupies the Guantanamo base. [sentence as heard]

Council of State Vice President Attends Pan-African Conference

FL2904141793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Nigerian Senate President Orgencio Argu has met with Esteban Lazo, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, in Lagos. Lazo is in Nigeria participating in a Pan-African conference on reparations to the nations that were victims of slavery. In the meeting, the Nigerian Senate president expressed his willingness to contribute to strengthening relations between the two countries.

At the conference, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim stressed the serious problems that have arisen due to the enormous numbers of refugees, local wars, and natural calamities that Africa cannot solve without help from the international community.

For his part, Lazo stressed at the conference, held in the Nigerian city of Abuja, the historical relations between Cuba and Africa. He also said that it is euphemistic to speak of Third World countries, for the current crisis of developing countries makes them a fifth or even 10th world country due to their secular backwardness. Lazo said that Cubans are proud of the economic and social work of the revolution in the midst of a world plagued by injustice.

Zambian Parliamentary Delegation Meets With ANPP President

FL2904150993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0207 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation from the Zambian National Assembly, headed by (Sicota Guina), vice president of the National Assembly, was met by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

The Zambian delegation was invited to Cuba by the ANPP and learned about the modifications made to the Constitution, the new electoral law, and the function and structure of ANPP bodies at all levels.

Besides (Sicota Guina), the Zambian parliamentary delegation is composed of Princess (Nagatindi), (Daniel Mutoloba), and (Nelson Noma), as well as the legal advisor (John Siami). ANPP Vice President Jaime Crombet was also at the meeting with the Zambian deputies, who are visiting Cuba by invitation of the ANPP.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Labor Ministers End 3-Day Meeting

FL3004181993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 30, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) labour ministers ending their three-day meeting here on Friday, have been presented with a list of concerns by the Barbados-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL). CCL's Secretary-Treasurer Kertist Augustus in a presentation to the ministers Thursday evening [29 April] listed among the CCL's concerns interference in the bargaining system, the need for tripartism in regional development and the introduction, updating and enforcement of legislation on environment and occupational saftey and health.

Augustus told the meeting that since 1991, his organisation had been complaining that workers were being denied the right to union representation, "by the open posturing of some employers in this region."

"This position now has a new dimension where there is open interference in the recognition process," he said.

"We call on this august gathering of labour ministers to allow the established machinery of the recognition process to take its natural course and to cease any attempts to interfere with that process," he added.

Augustus said regarding tripartism, while the CCL have been calling for institutionalisation of the process, "we are saddened that the process has not yet had the success we in the labour movement anticipated."

"We note with interest the intention of the Caricom Secretariat to consult with the social partners on a regular basis and must compliment the new secretary general in that regard," he added.

Augustus said however he was convinced that the labour ministers must take the initiative and, "lead if this process (of tripartism) is to receive the fertile soil it needs to germinate and grow."

"Show us that you have the political will to concretise this process," he said.

Augustus said while the CCL had welcomed moves by some regional governments on occupational saftey and health in the workplace, there was need to add the issue of the environment.

"We believe and we are convinced that we have a responsibility of ensuring that our development strategy is geared to meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Augustus also called on the regional governments to strengthen their individual labour departments, noting that "insufficient attention was being paid to the vital contribution that such people had to play in the industrial relations system."

"We also call on the ministers to push for a much greater percentage of the national budget in order to permit the Ministry (of Labour) to provide the level of service it ought to provide to the public and particularly the workers, trade unions, and employers."

The CCL presented three papers to the meeting, including one on the challenge of higher productivity in the Caribbean.

Disease-Resistant Banana Strain Identified

FL0105002193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 30, CANA—The St. Lucia-based Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (Winban) said on Friday that it had collaborated with the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (FHIA) in identifying a banana strain resistant to the devastating moko disease.

A Winban statement quoted Director of Research Dr. Errol Reid as saying that Grenada, where the disease is most prevalent, will welcome the find.

The plant will replace the existing Bluggoe variety "which is highly susceptible to the disease", the statement from Winban said.

FHIA's plant breeder, Dr. Franklin Rosales, said that the new plant does not harbour moko bacteria and produces an excellent cooking banana.

"This variety will ensure the continued availability of an important food crop for Grenada. The new variety is also resistant to both yellow and black sigatoka (leafspot) diseases," Winban reported.

Moko disease, found only in Grenada of the Windward Islands, costs more than EC600,000 dollars (one East Caribbean dollar - 37 US cents) a year to control, Winban calculated.

The disease does not affect human beings, but "actual crop loss is substantial as the disease can wipe out an entire banana plantation if left unchecked or if improperly managed", Winban said.

Cayman Islands

Rate of Inflation Slows to 1.4 Percent in Mar

FL0205211593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1504 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, May 2, CANA—The annualised rate of inflation in the Cayman Islands slowed to 1.4 per cent in March, latest government figures showed.

It was the lowest annualised inflation rate recorded in this western Caribbean British territory since September 1985 when the figure was 1.3 per cent.

The Statistics Department reported the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 1993 stood at 149.4, a gain of 2.1 points or 1.4 per cent from the 147.3 index recorded for March 1992.

Personal goods and services, the category carrying the highest weighting on the CPI index, showed no change. Housing rose by 1.6 per cent while the largest increase was in clothing where prices rose 6.1 per cent for the year, the figures showed.

A government statement noted the CPI of the Cayman Islands was closely following the U.S. inflation rate. The Cayman Islands imports nearly 90 per cent of all food and consumer goods from the United States.

The Cayman Islands' CPI uses the base of 100 points for the cost of 500 selected items in September 1984 and compares the price of those same items every three months to arrive at an inflation rate and CPI.

Haiti

Denis Said To Fear Possible Foreign Military Intervention

FL3004155493 Port-au-Prince Radio Signal FM in French 1030 GMT 30 Apr 93 (Tentative)

[Excerpts] Carl Denis [former National Reconstruction Movement senate candidate; opponent of Jean-Bertrand Aristide] fears a possible foreign military intervention in Haiti with the return of President Aristide. He has sent a message to the people asking them to regain their self-control.

[Begin Denis recording in Creole] President Bill Clinton held a news conference on 23 April. During this news conference, President Clinton said that he would make every effort to restore Aristide's power. He also said that he would be obliged to invade the country with foreign armies to preserve democracy when he has Aristide return to power. [sentence as heard] What does that mean? That means the conditions he has laid down to every Haitian who wants Aristide's return to power is that they should accept a foreign occupation, the intervention of foreign armies in the country. [passage omitted]

Although President Clinton clearly made his statement one week ago, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide has not said that he does not agree with that statement. Though he does not say that he does not agree, we are forced to believe that he agrees with that plan. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Let us point out that close partisans of President Aristide, including Chavannes Jean-Baptiste of the Papaye Peasants Movement and Evans Paul alias K-Plim, spokesman of the National Front for Change and Democracy, the party that supported the presidency of.... [pauses] the presidential candidacy of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, took a stand against any foreign military intervention in the country. The voice of Evans Paul, also Known as K-Plim, was heard even yesterday while he was summoning the Army to moderation, understanding, and tolerance to avoid this catastrophe, this tragedy, as he said, to spare the country shame.

Government Considering Measures To Redress 'Financial Disequilibrium'

FL3004221293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The Bazin government has painted the Council of Ministers a gloomy picture of the country's economic situation. Income per person has significantly declined. Unemployment has worsened; savings are increasingly weak; the gourde has depreciated; bank credits, for lack of investments, have not always contributed to economic growth, and the economy, deprived of external aid, has probably become an exporter of capital. That is the assessment made by the government, questioning the embargo and the economic sanctions against Haiti.

Bazin's government is considering measures to redress the financial disequilibrium of the public sector. Those measures include a mandatory use tax on primary asphalt roads and an increase in the minimum tax on professional profits from 600 gourdes to 2,000 gourdes. Only those importers who have fulfilled the required conditions will be granted customs exemptions. The government is also considering the formation of an internal ministerial committee to monitor import policy and increased taxes on the exploitation of natural resources, reinforced control of harbors, increased leasing of state properties, strict application of the 29 September 1986 decree on income tax, and the elimination of absent or inactive employees' salaries. The government indicates that implementation will be scheduled by the parliament.

Dispute Noted Within People's Organizations on Choice of Prime Minister

FL3004221193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In Haiti, there is a basic dispute within the people's organizations that are proposing names for the position of prime minister within the scope of another government of national concord. Edner Jean has details:

[Begin recording] The political and people's organizations are already arguing over the head of the new strong man who will emerge from the current negotiations. Who will be this new head of government accepted by all parties? Where will he come from? Right now, only his title is known: concord prime minister. Who will bear the title? Gerard Gourgue, Leslie Delatour, Victor Benoit, Gerard Latortue, Serge Gilles, Wesner Emmanuel, Maurepas Auguste, Eddy Volel; the list is infinitely long and that is where the bargaining starts.

The people's organizations are crowning the political parties. They are stating proposals, counterproposals, and opposition in favor of the person they consider capable of filling the highly coveted function. There have been created new people's organizations with the sole purpose of supporting a candidate as prime minister of the Republic. This was the genesis of FOPS, Front of Peasant and Union Organizations [as heard]. This alliance of people's movements firmly supports the candidacy of "Ti Gilles," PANPRA's [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] first in command, Serge Gilles. According to this front, no one is better qualified than Serge Gilles for the post of concord prime minister.

Isn't Serge Gilles one of the senators elected in the contested 18 January election, a senator in the execution of his mandate? What is the real position of PANPRA in the crisis? Will Serge Gilles, as prime minister, agree to relinquish his senatorial title and deny the 18 January election? These questions were raised by journalists at

the first FOPS news conference on 22 April. The speakers' answers were rather laconic. [passage omitted]

When will the choice of the concord prime minister be made? When this question was put to Dante Caputo, the one who is pushing for negotiations, he said this phase was not yet achieved. In other words, the people's organizations are a phase ahead of the mediator. [end recording]

FOPPS Proposes Serge Gilles as Prime Minister

FL3004160493 Port-au-Prince Radio Signal FM in French 1030 GMT 30 Apr 93 (Tentative)

[Excerpts] The FOPPS, Federation of the People's, Peasant, and Union Organizations [Federation des Organizations Populaires, Paysannes, et Syndicales] provided its choice of a prime minister who will ensure the transition before President Aristide's return to power. Only a political solution can guide this choice, according to FOPPS, which opposes any (?bureaucratic) solution. [passage omitted]

FOPPS proposed Serge Gilles [words indistinct] for the post of prime minister in the transition government before the return of President Aristide.

It should be mentioned that President Aristide had designated Rene Theodore for the post of prime minister and that until now no one else has been proposed by Aristide.

KID Condemns 'Repression,' 'Arbitrary' Arrests by Police

FL3004221493 Port-au-Prince Radio Signal FM in French 1030 GMT 30 Apr 93 (Tentative)

[Text] In a press release dated 28 April, the Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID] vehemently condemns the repression and arbitrary arrests committed by the Port-au-Prince police. KID asks the (?Army) not to terrorize the population any longer. The Haitian Armed Forces should understand that their job consists of defending national territory and participating in national development while closely collaborating with the police to maintain order. KID asks: When will the Army stop confronting the civilian population?

Furthermore, it asks the military authorities to refrain from the force and repression that are rejected by civilized countries.

It should be recalled that Port-au-Prince Mayor-elect Evans Paul condemned foreign intervention and called on the military authorities to be reasonable. The de facto authorities must understand that they must cooperate in facilitating a happy way out of the crisis.

Jamaica

Vatican Advance Team Discusses Arrangements for Pope's Aug Visit

FL0205212793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 2, CANA—An advance team from the Vatican visited Jamaica last week to discuss arrangements for the planned visit by Pope John Paul II, August 9-11.

Jamaica's official news agency, JAMPRESS, said the team headed by Father Roberto Tucci spent two days here holding meetings with representatives of the church and laity, including the committee planning the papal visit.

The visit will be the first by a head of the Roman Catholic Church to Jamaica and will include meetings with Prime Minister Percival Patterson, opposition leader Edward Seaga and Governor General Sir Howard Cooke.

An ecumenical meeting and a public mass are also being planned.

Commerce Secretary Says NAFTA 'On the Right Path'

PA2904145093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Carlos Guerrero]

[Text] Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of commerce and industrial development, stated in the presence of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari that the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, is on the right path. He discounted recent criticism of the trilateral agreement, saying that such criticism is often thoughtless and groundless.

[Begin Serra recording] Hence, we need not be offended by such comments and public statements that we have already heard, particularly in the past few days, and that we will continue to hear in the weeks to come. The important thing is to weigh them and realize that this criticism comes from groups that do not represent the general opinion and do not reflect any change in the three governments' position. [end recording]

Secretary Serra reaffirmed that the three countries have decided not to open the treaty to others, as the present text is already permanent. Regarding parallel negotiations on labor and environmental matters, the secretary said Mexico has maintained three basic principles in its negotiations: the agreements must be compatible with the text of the treaty, there must be respect for sovereignty, and the agreements must not serve as protectionist barriers.

The commerce secretary said notable progress has been made in negotiations for the parallel agreements. He outlined the agenda in this regard. In the week beginning on 3 May, the three countries will consolidate their versions of pending topics into a single text. Once this text has been consolidated, beginning on 12 May, the heads of the negotiation will meet to fine tune it, eliminating the so-called brackets [corchetes].

[Begin Serra recording] This means that we are moving at a very good pace, that we are making advances, and that in May there will surely be very important advances toward a final text. [end recording]

The secretary added that this pace will make it possible for the treaty to go into effect in 1994, generating jobs and a higher standard of living for Mexicans.

At a ceremony to close the 42d regular assembly of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs, Miguel Mancera, director of the Bank of Mexico, said that the supply of foreign exchange exceeds the current demand in our country. He said, therefore, the accumulation of foreign reserves exerts pressure to revalue our currency.

[Begin Mancera recording] Over the past few years, the Central Bank has been accumulating foreign reserves. This means that at the current exchange rate, the supply of foreign exchange in the country has exceeded the demand, resulting in pressure to revalue our currency, which obviously contradicts the belief that the peso is overvalued. [end recording]

For his part, President Carlos Salinas reiterated that the present economic strategy will remain firm. He told businessmen that Mexico will participate in trade that is open to equitable international competition. Therefore, he said, the federal government shares the responsibility for promoting Mexican products in international markets. He concluded that the laws on economic competition and foreign trade [words indistinct] to promote the competitiveness of businesses abroad. [words indistinct] important change, because exports of manufactured products have increased three times as fast as the economy.

President Salinas Delivers Labor Day Speech

PA0205192693 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 1 May 93

[Speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the conclusion of the Labor Day parade at the National Palace in Mexico City—live]

[Text] Friends, leaders of the Labor Congress, fellow Mexican workers: I congratulate you on this great parade. Today, 1 May, in remembering the Chicago martyrs and, most of all, in reaffirming the validity of the workers' struggle, our workers have once again shown the unity and strength of their movement. In today's Labor Day celebration, your tradition of struggle expresses your demands, voices the need for balance in our system, and thus reaffirms the struggle for social justice. In Mexico, organized workers participate in changes, demand them, and always advance defending their interests while permanently placing the interests of the nation first. Those who know the history of modern Mexico are not surprised that the labor movement knows how always to be at the forefront. That is how it was during the revolution, when it played an influential role in bringing forth the first social constitution in the world, the Mexican Constitution. It did the same during the phases of the reconstruction of the state and the activation of our development. Today as we are changing and looking toward the 21st century, the labor movement is expanding horizons to consolidate the country's modernization. Workers are defining their demands through laws and institutions. You are thus struggling for an equitable society, and that constitutes a guarantee of social peace. You are the engine of our development, and the nation grows with your individual and collective work. For all of this, the labor movement is vigorous in our country. That is why my government respects the autonomy of your unions and congratulates itself on the solid alliance between workers and the state so Mexico can continue facing its challenges. Two major challenges are calling for the effort and unity of all Mexicans. On the one hand, we must take advantage of the world's transformation by strengthening our sovereignty and self-determination. On the other hand, we must make

the social rights of Mexicans more effective with an economy with sustained growth and without inflation. We want to become linked to the dynamics of the world by maintaining our independence and always reaffirming the pride of being Mexican. We also want more investments and expanded markets, but with price stability and equitable distribution of benefits. In sum, we are opening up to the world confident of who we are. In so doing, we are determined to promote a growth rate that ensures a real and permanent increase in the number of jobs, and with it the well-being of Mexicans.

A few years ago, friends of the Labor Congress, the complaint regarding excessive price increases dominated workers' demands. Annual inflation rates of almost 200 percent made Mexican families insist that we turn fighting inflation into a fundamental priority. That was reflected in the demands the workers made in the May Day parades. We accepted that social demand and turned it into a government program. Now, thanks to everyone's contribution, the results show we are on the right track. Last year's inflation rate was the lowest in 17 years. Last March's inflation rate of merely 0.6 percent was the lowest in almost a quarter of a century

Preliminary figures for April reveal a similar result. This is most encouraging, but we paid such a high price during the inflationary period that we are determined not to lower our guard. The only thing that inflation has shown in our country is that real wages drop with it, and then we have recession and a job shortage. We are encouraged be the fact that workers are demanding that we maintain this policy that has made it possible to lower inflation. Rest assured we will. To a large extent, the spirit workers have shown in this great parade, their solidarity, and the reaffirmation of the historic pact between the organized labor movement and the Mexican state show that inflation no longer undermines the income of the workers or the welfare of their families.

The economic stability we are reaching that allows us, I repeat, for the first time in a quarter of a century to get close to a single digit inflation rate means that families have true purchasing power for their wages. Today the primary goal is to protect employment and maintain social programs. That is why social spending continues to grow with strict fiscal discipline and alreadyrepresents over half the total budget. It is reflected in greater and better education, health care, and, no doubt, in the Solidarity Program that benefits all Mexicans, especially those who have less.

We are determined to protect jobs and create new ones, although the marginal growth of the international economy is not favorable to us. Investment in Mexico that generates jobs has seen four years of rapid growth at a pace that is more than three times the growth of the economy. We created additional jobs in 1993 by constructing over 300,000 housing units. We are thus responding to the workers' demand for greater and better housing and simultaneously generating additional jobs. The same can be said of the extraordinary highway program and the stimulus to over 250,000 small- and medium-scale businesses all over the country.

The best way to protect employment sources is to raise productivity. During the four years of my administration, productivity has grown substantially. Thus the average productivity of every worker rose 4.7 percent from 1989 to 1991 and 6 percent in 1992. This favorable development of productivity was accompanied by an increase in overall pay. Real wages in manufacturing rose 9 percent in 1989, 3.6 percent in 1990, 6 percent in 1991, and 9 percent in 1992. In real terms, that means an accumulated recovery of 28 percent during my administration, starting, of course, from levels that I admit were deteriorated by the crisis of the 1980's.

To protect jobs we need better wages, and this can only be permanent if we achieve sustained growth in productivity. To achieve that it is imperative that the economy grow at a faster pace. I have said the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] represents one additional instrument to promote greater economic growth. For that reason, when the treaty is implemented, the opportunities and efforts to raise productivity will be greater. This will lead to a recovery of real wages, especially the minimum wages. The number of workers earning minimum wage has been dropping significantly, while the number of workers earning higher wages is rising. For example, only 12 percent of the total number of workers hired in assembly plants earn the minimum wage; the rest earn higher wages. It is important, however, to improve the minimum wage. This will happen at a faster pace with NAFTA. Greater productivity will mean greater real wages and a better standard of living. As we make our economy more efficient and competitive, we will strengthen our sovereignty and make progress in the field of justice. Economic efficiency expressed in every company and in every sector with investments, training, improvements in the productive plant, quality, and attention to consumers. This is a joint undertaking that must be carried out by combining efforts to multiply results. By creating a competitive economy we are certainly heading toward a genuine revaluation of work. We are united in this, and the government and workers form a common front. Let me assure you that we are going to win this battle.

Workers and friends, social liberalism inspires in our country a formula for competition and justice. Dialogue among the production sectors, workers, and businessmen is basic for understanding. We are talking about a specific dialogue in each company that pays attention

to better production and reaffirms the shared commitment that the success of productivity will reinforce the company, thus workers will reap greater benefits.

We call this dialogue at the company level industrial democracy. Industrial democracy is cooperation based on dialogue, understanding, and recognition of the rights of the labor force and its key role for progress at the level of the employment plant. This is a nationalist contribution so Mexico can move ahead in a sovereign manner. This is the nationalism of our days. With nationalism rooted in the Mexican workers, as their movement shows, as is the conviction of their leaders, with the union of Mexicans, with the union of the country's union forces, with devotion to daily work by everyone, with the unyielding struggle of the labor movement, Mexico will continue moving ahead in the face of all its challenges. Friends of the Labor Congress, I want to convey to you the recognition of the president for this great parade, which is an example of the strength, militancy, and solidarity of the workers of our fatherland. [applause]

Costa Rica

Calderon Says Police, Security Forces Must Be Made 'More Professional'

PA0105200093 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon has admitted many aspects of our national security must be reviewed following the developments of 26-29 April. The president said the country has a well-trained team that is ready to act during emergencies as serious as the kidnapping of the Supreme Court of Justice magistrates. We have a good team of psychologists and strategists and a commando unit that has received lengthy training to defend the country's institutionality and peace.

President Calderon wondered: Why did something like this happen? Why does a kidnapping like this happen in a nation that has always viewed the Supreme Court of Justice as the highest center of justice and that enjoys the utmost respect from all Costa Ricans? Why did two employees and a former employee of the Judicial Branch; why did five Costa Ricans from good, humble, and honorable families and without a criminal record do this?

This should lead us, President Calderon added, to conclude there must be profound reflection on what has happened in the past years and on what changes Costa Rican society has undergone. The negative changes the world has brought upon Costa Ricans and the extreme trust we are accustomed to cannot continue, Calderon said.

The president thinks our police and security forces must be made more professional to give greater tranquillity to Costa Rica. He added Costa Ricans must change their attitude because—although we are sure we neither need nor want an army—we will have to further professionalize our security corps.

President Calderon said experiences like these show definitely the concept of the public force as a political bounty must end in Costa Rica. He said his government has respected the structure established in the security corps by previous administrations because these people are not members of one party or another but they serve Costa Rica.

Calderon added this attitude should reach all posts within the security corps because all public force corps should gain a higher degree of national awareness.

Cuajiniquil Said To Become 'Most Important' Cocaine Supply Center

PA0205163593 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 April 93 p 19A

[Part I of article by Basilio Quesada Chanto]

[Text] Last year it was a simple community that depended on fishing and agriculture for its subsistence, but it has now become the most important cocaine supply center in Costa Rica.

Life in Cuajiniquil changed after 29 January 1992, when two speedboats came from Colombia with more than 1,500 kg of cocaine. The enormous drug shipment was unloaded and buried, and it was later discovered by a group of fishermen.

According to a report from the Public Security Ministry's National Drug Control Directorate, drug trafficking is now the main activity in that Guanacaste community, which is now suffering the dire consequences.

The change is so drastic that the community is now divided between those who sell and distribute the drug and those who refuse to become part of the drug trafficking mafia.

According to the social workers, sociologists, psychologists, and planning experts who prepared the report, socioeconomic problems, government neglect, and a lack of employment sources led the people of Cuajiniquil to believe drugs were a lifesaver. In addition, the area's geographic characteristics (its proximity to Nicaragua and irregular coast with lots of bays and hidden coves) were factors considered by drug traffickers when they made their selection.

Manna From Heaven

The Coloso I, a "cigarette" type speedboat (capable of going more than 100 km per hour; km per hour is a measure of speed rather than power), left the Colombian port of Buenaventura late in January 1992 loaded with 750 kg of cocaine and apparently bound for the port of Corinto, Nicaragua.

Colombian citizens Gabriel Chica Delgado and Francisco Martinez were in the boat, which crashed against a cliff near Murcielago Islands in the Gulf of Papagayo.

The speedboat's four propellers were damaged on impact, so the crew members decided to change them and they called Colombia to report the accident.

The call was heard by a fishing boat, and its crew immediately notified the authorities, who sent a small airplane to comb the zone and a patrol boat to intercept the speedboat.

The patrol boat located the Colombians, who were immediately arrested and the speedboat confiscated and taken to Cuajiniquil.

Gabriel told the police: "I was contacted by a man whose surname is Escalona in Colon, Panama, where I worked as a longshoreman. He said my mission was to take the boat to Corinto, where a man known as Taylor would receive it. He offered me $1,000 for the job; a down payment of $200 and the rest when I returned."

Both Gabriel and Francisco were released by the courts because no drugs were found in their possession. They were deported to Colombia, and the cocaine would later be found.

People living in several communities along the Pacific coast later noticed unusual activities and the authorities surmised that the drug had been buried.

The Coloso II, similar to the first speedboat, was found on 1 February sunk near Minas beach. Local residents also noticed several men in a rubber boat coming ashore at Blanca Beach and hiding something.

A group of fishermen found a shipment of more than 1,500 kg of cocaine in 60 bags buried at Jocote Beach. The news spread quickly among the Cuajiniquil residents and they went to the site of the discovery to take part of the drug shipment.

The cocaine was transferred to Cuajiniquil, where they buried it in different places throughout the community. The fishermen had thus entered the world of drug trafficking.

"It was like manna from heaven; we were very lucky," one of the fishermen stated to members of the National Drug Control Directorate when they were conducting an investigation.

Cali Cartel

According to Police reports, the drug that changed Cuajiniquil belonged to several groups of international drug traffickers who worked with the Cali Cartel, which uses Central America as its cocaine warehouse on its export route to the United States.

Although the Colombians arrested in the Coloso I said the drug brought from Buenaventura, Colombia would be taken to Corinto, the Police concluded that its destination was Guatemala. There were two stopovers, the first in Cuajiniquil and the other in Nicaragua.

Apparently this is not the first time drug traffickers have used Cuajiniquil as a stopover for replenishing their water, fuel, and food provisions. That conclusion is based on reports that no less than six speedboats from Colombia arrived at the Guanacaste community in 1991. They presumably carried more than 10,000 kg of cocaine during that time.

According to the investigation, the Cuajiniquil residents, mostly illegal Nicaraguan aliens who have lived there for a long time, initially had no idea they were dealing with drug traffickers and cordially helped the foreigners, who left some money for the food, water, and gasoline they took.

The fishermen's life changed completely when the speedboats had the accident, the drug was left behind, and the cocaine shipment was discovered.

Calderon Writes Poland's Walesa on 'Deplorable News' Against Envoy

PA0205045593 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 11A

[Text of letter from Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier to Polish President Lech Walesa issued in San Jose on 21 April]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr. President:

The Costa Rican Government has received the deplorable news that Mr. Carlos Vargas—the person who had been its ambassador to the Illustrious Government of the Republic of Poland—is involved in the international drug trafficking, a crime for which he was caught "in flagrante" by the Polish authorities. The situation is extremely critical, and I have no doubts Your Excellency shares this opinion. Your government and mine are waging a frontal attack on this scourge against mankind, and they have signed various international conventions and agreements pledging them to strictly carry out actions aimed at preventing and punishing drug trafficking.

In Mr. Vargas' specific case, the Costa Rican Government—once notified about the incident—decided to withdraw all his diplomatic privileges and immunity and remove him from his post as ambassador accredited to the Republic of Poland, so your illustrious government may fully enforce the law against Mr. Vargas and punish him in the most severe way possible. He has violated the trust placed in his person, and he did it in particularly critical circumstances, so no other action is possible. As president of Costa Rica, I feel embarrassed about his action and I extend due apologies for the trouble that such a shameful act may have caused the Polish Nation; and I beg you to punish him with the severity demanded by the case.

I renew the assurances of my respect and admiration, and I am pleased to greet you and to wish you and your people the best.

Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier

Your Excellency Mr.
Lech Walesa,
President of Poland,
Warsaw

El Salvador

President Cristiani Holds News Conference 26 Apr

PA2904201793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 93

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign journalists and unidentified moderator at the Presidency in San Salvador; live—broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Cristiani] ...extension of a permit for Salvadorans living in the United States, and there is also a possibility.... [pauses] We requested a two-year permit so there would be no need to repeat the procedure every year. An 18-month permit will apparently be issued. That is the last report we have on that topic.

[Moderator] Norma Jimenez.

[Jimenez] Good morning. Referring to rumors about the OAS Human Rights Commission, we read reports that the government prevented the commission from coming. If this is true, why was it done?

[Cristiani] It is not true we prevented the commission from coming. We notified the commission that the officials it wanted to meet with had other commitments, and we asked it to postpone its trip to the country. We have never opposed its arrival. Many times these issues are misinterpreted for political purposes, particularly by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission and other pro-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front organizations, which have issued statements. It is not true we prevented or forbid the commission from coming to the country. We simply asked it to postpone the trip for these reasons. In fact, a UN contingent is in the country to verify the situation, so it is not a matter of allowing or forbidding the commission's arrival to hold meetings and follow up on the situation.

[Moderator] Daniel Mogatti.

[Cristiani—interrupts] I am writing a letter to the OAS secretary general because we have certainly been surprised by the way the commission worded its press release. We believe this type of situation arises on many occasions, meaning governments sometimes face unexpected situations or government officials must attend certain events. We do not consider correct the way in which the commission issued its press release on the situation. We have not tried to prevent them from arriving in the country.

[Jimenez] [words indistinct]

[Cristiani] We agreed to coordinate it mutually. They have their own commitments, timetable, etc. The same thing happened when we had to postpone the trip to Spain. These things happen. We were not preventing the Inter-American Human Rights Commission from coming.

[Moderator] Mogatti.

[Mogatti] Excuse me. I will ask my question in English for THE MIAMI HERALD, Mr. President. [Mogatti, in English] the question is this: The problems of Salvadorans in the United States really goes beyond an extension of the working permit. Many of them want to become U.S. citizens and they cannot. Have you received any kind of commitment from the U.S. Government in that respect? Is there a chance that Salvadorans in the United States will be able to formalize their situation over there in the long run?

[Cristiani, in English] I think it has.... [pauses] Quite a few Salvadorans have formalized their status in the United States. There is no special commitment from the U.S. Government. They have immigration laws and any citizen from another country has to comply with all that is required to become a U.S. resident or citizen.

[Station announcer] The president of the Republic is now answering questions from U.S. media. We can report that, prior to the news conference... [pauses] When the news conference started the president was stating that the U.S. Attorney General's Office has practically approved an 18-month extension for Salvadorans who are currently in the United States.

[Cristiani] I think it is important to phrase it thus: We believe many Salvadorans who went to the United States now have a source of income and their return would not necessarily imply they would be looking for a job. They would be able to become small businessmen—some of them might become important businessmen.

If one travels through the eastern part of the country, one is able to see that Salvadorans living abroad are sending their money and it is being invested—particularly San Miguel, a city that has registered speedy growth. The eastern area is obviously the zone or region from which more Salvadorans migrated because the conflict was more critical there.

Second, we believe it is preferable that their return be carried out in an orderly manner. That does not mean the country cannot absorb its citizens. In fact, Salvadorans have no limitations whatsoever on their return. If they decide to return, they will return and we will welcome them with open arms. We are not talking about an exodus. That is why we are asking for an extension. THE MIAMI HERALD representative rightfully said this may not solve everyone's problems but the government also wants to state it will not sponsor an exodus. We will obviously give all the necessary facilities and we know this will calm the Salvadoran people because not everyone is registered in the [word indistinct] program.

U.S. officials have stated they are not interested in sponsoring an exodus of our fellow citizens. The country is experiencing a recovery but it cannot be achieved overnight; a large number of Salvadorans are abroad, approximately 20 percent of our population. Like I said, there is a possibility that a sizable number of them will not return to the country as employees or to seek a job. Their return will be under different circumstances.

[Moderator] Josie Casis.

[Casis] Good morning, Mr. President. I am going to ask two questions. One is related to drugs. You mentioned that one of the members of the UN Observers for El Salvador was linked to cocaine trafficking. We know the effort that Central American governments are making to counter this problem, which has an adverse effect on youths, particularly. What do you plan to do regarding the person who is linked to drug trafficking? The second

question deals with sports. What are your expectations regarding our soccer team, which has lost two or three games. You pledged 1 million colones, which I believe was to help the minor leagues. What do you expect from the Salvadoran team?

[Cristiani] First, an investigation was made. I want to explain that the report by the counternarcotics unit does not imply there is a narcotrafficking ring. What happened here—apparently, I say apparently, because it has not been confirmed by the judge and is only the product of an investigation and some testimony by persons involved—is that there were 25 kg of drugs seized in Usulutan several weeks ago. The drug apparently was going to be sent to Mexico. Half of the shipment, 12.5 kg, is in Mexico. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Alfredo Villarreal.

[Villarreal] Good morning, Mr. President. Are you willing to receive the human rights commission? If so, when?

[Cristiani] I think that the agenda for the coming month of May will be very hectic. I think, however, that if the commission wants to come in May, it could be May. Otherwise it could be in June, possibly. We don't have a set date. The situation stems from the fact that they are coming not only on a visit, but on a visit to the Presidency of the Republic. They had requested a series of visits with a series of government officials. The complicated thing is to try to make all of the officials available on the date of the visit. That is the part that has to be coordinated.

[Moderator] Ismael Beltran.

[Beltran] Thank you, good morning. I would like to know what were the results of your efforts with the other Central American presidents to form a bloc to obtain better coffee prices?

[Cristiani] As you know, the talks concerned forming a bloc to seek mechanisms that will permit regulating the coffee market with fair, equitable prices. This will be ironed out by our coffee representatives. There will be a meeting of coffee representatives in San Salvador this week. They will try to define possible positive mechanisms. There are several possibilities, but experts should try to analyze the ones that are most viable. Then, as the last part of the signed agreement states, an effort will have to be made to urge other coffee producing countries to join the effort.

Central America alone will not have much of an impact on the coffee market, nor are we going to bear the burden of the sacrifice. In that sense, after this meeting we will try to visit other coffee producing countries to have them join the effort with mechanisms that will have to be discussed later with those countries. At the beginning we thought we had to make an inventory of possible mechanisms to be discussed with other countries, so that more countries could join our effort. We hope the Central American committee will be able to leave next week to visit other countries. Logically, the main ones have to be Brazil and Colombia, because Central America, Brazil, and Colombia represent 70 percent of world coffee production.

Cristiani on New U.S. Envoy, Peace Process

PA2904163993 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani on 28 April declined to comment on the appointment of the new U.S. ambassador to El Salvador. The president stated that the government is concerned about the discovery of arms caches belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

[Begin Cristiani recording] First of all, the appointment of ambassadors is a sovereign act by other countries. We understand that Mr. Flanagan, the person that President Clinton will propose to the Senate for confirmation, is knowledgeable about Latin American and regional issues. His latest assignment was more concerned with U.S. policy toward Cuba, but he is also aware of events in the Central American and Caribbean region. He will be a U.S. State Department official assigned to this region.

I believe current U.S. charge d'affaires Peter Romero knows El Salvador well, but ambassadors are never assigned permanently. In this case, Mr. Romero is being promoted from charge d'affaires in El Salvador to ambassador in Ecuador. From time to time, these changes are made in diplomatic missions.

As for your reference to charges by FMLN general coordinator Shafik Handal that the peace process is stagnant, I disagree. Actually, we believe the process is moving forward. On our side, we have continued the implementation process. Work is continuing on the National Civil Police, on the academy, and on the assignment of land to former combatants. All this work continues. In addition, the ad hoc commission secretary general recently announced that the agreement for which Handal was clamoring only a week ago has also been completed. I absolutely do not agree that the process has stagnated.

On the other hand, we have noted with reserve and concern—and we have so indicated to the UN secretary general—the constant discoveries of weapons typically used by the FMLN in areas where the FMLN was operating. This means that the FMLN has not fully complied with its obligation to present and destroy all weapons. Perhaps Mr. Handal could make an extra effort to help locate all such weapons so they can be destroyed. In this way, the process would not be stagnating from his side, either. [end recording]

President Cristiani was attending the inauguration of the Conference for Education and Peace in a hotel in San Salvador.

Pacas Says Amnesty Not in Order in FMLN, Killed U.S. Soldiers Case

PA2904161993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Manuel Pacas Castro said on 29 April that he believes the U.S. soldiers who were killed by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas—after the helicopter in which they were flying was shot down—enjoyed diplomatic immunity so in this case amnesty is not in order.

As part of the process in the helicopter case, the Chinameca First District Court judge who is handing the case asked the Foreign Ministry to determine the status of the U.S. pilots when they were killed by FMLN members. This will permit the judge to decide whether or not the guerrillas may take advantage of the Amnesty Law issued recently.

On 29 April Dr. Manuel Pacas Castro announced his position on this issue.

[Begin Pacas Castro recording] We are reviewing the Foreign Ministry files to verify if the U.S. pilots had been accredited.

Given the nature of the case, I believe it was a common crime that does not come under the category of a common crime with political connections. This should also be viewed in the context of the Vienna Convention, which mandates the government to protect the lives of these people and comply with international commitments on life protection, even if they had not been accredited by the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

These statements by Dr. Pacas Castro indicate that the Amnesty Law will not include the FMLN members implicated in this case. Dr. Pacas Castro refused to comment on that matter.

[Begin Pacas Castro recording] As a government official and an attorney, I have a view of things. But I respect the autonomy of the judge and I would not like to influence her opinion, as the U.S. Government is interested in the fulfillment of justice and the imposition of appropriate legal sanctions. [end recording]

The Salvadoran foreign minister thanked the Mexican Government for its assistance in requesting the suspension of diplomatic immunity for a Mexican policeman—who is a member of the UN Observers for El Salvador—charged with drug trafficking, adding that all persons involved in drug trafficking, whether diplomats, should be prosecuted.

FPL To Support Leftist Movement Presidential Candidacy

PA2904195693 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 26 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Former guerrilla commander Facundo Guardado on 25 April said that the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL)—one of the five groups that form the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)—does not support the presidential candidacy of Abraham Rodriguez of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. Guardado added that the FPL will support a leftist movement.

The FPL held a convention on 25 April to discuss the political work that will be done prior to its 1994 elections, for which, as was said earlier, the FMLN will not present a presidential candidate and instead will seek legislative and mayoral seats.

Guardado stated that the FPL will support the democratic and people's revolutionary movement, adding that together they will win the elections. He continued, however, that the FPL will not support the PDC because it does not represent a new alternative, as Abraham Rodriguez is connected to the past of the PDC.

The former commander explained that "Dr. Rodriguez was appointed as presidential designate during the administration of late former President Jose Napoleon Duarte and he did not do anything for the country. Therefore, one cannot believe that he intends to become the problem solver of El Salvador."

According to Guardado, among the political forces that the FMLN may support are the Revolutionary National Movement (MNR), the Democratic Convergence [CD], or any other leftist party in our country. So far, only the nomination of Dr. Victor Manuel Valle for the presidency of the Republic representing the MNR is known; it is expected that by May at the latest, the CD will officially announce the nomination of Dr. Ruben Zamora, its virtual candidate.

ERP Leader Denies FPL Going To Leave FMLN

PA2904230593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Daisy Villalobos]

[Text] Ana Guadalupe Martinez, leader of the Peoples Revolutionary Army [ERP], denied on 29 April that the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, FPL, is going to leave the FMLN. Ana Guadalupe Martinez spoke to reporters and said that there is currently an internal debate in the FMLN regarding the presidential ticket.

She said the FPL has proposed Ruben Zamora and Facundo Guardado, while other FMLN organizations have other proposals that are being discussed. Guadalupe Martinez did not dismiss the possibility that some organization may separate from the FMLN if it insists upon its current position and does not assess it thoroughly.

[Begin Guadalupe Martinez recording] All I know is that the FPL announced on 25 April that its presidential ticket would be Ruben Zamora and Facundo Guardado.

That is its position, and everyone is participating in the debate surrounding it. This will be an advantage when the time comes to appeal for peace, to reflect on what is most appropriate. This is the FPL's position: Look, this is what we like;so we will submit it for consideration. I do not think it will necessarily lead to division within the FMLN. If they maintain their position, obviously there could be a [word indistinct]

The ERP leader criticized the attitude of President Alfredo Cristiani, who said on 28 April that the FMLN still has hidden weapons. The ERP leader urged the president to refrain from displaying such an attitude, which is causing conflicts, and to evidence of his charges. [end recording]

Electoral Tribunal Magistrate on 'Slow' Response to Census

PA2904155293 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] On 27 April Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) Magistrate Dr. Eduardo Colindres expressed concern over the people's slow response to the TSE census and identification card campaign. He warned of the possibility of fraud during the March 1994 elections.

Colindres explained that during the campaign, which took place between 22 March and 23 April, of the 18,248 who visited the TSE only 6,055 requested identification cards, which is alarming considering that 50,000 people should have received those cards. The rest of the people renewed or made changes on their TSE documents.

Colindres, a member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), believes that the failure of the recently concluded first phase of the campaign was a result of inadequate and insufficient publicity, a lack of resources, and the TSE's failure to seek out those people in need of TSE attention, which he said he warned about a year ago.

Colindres also accused the Finance Ministry of incompetence and of boycotting the electoral process by hindering the procedures through which the TSE could have had released from customs a machine donated by AID to clean up the electoral census. He said a fine of 2,960.00 colones must be paid, and "the Finance Ministry can pay it."

Colindres proposed a massive census and identification card campaign with the monitoring and support of all political parties, a larger TSE budget, and improved logistics and working conditions for employees as a means of achieving a successful campaign.

Otherwise, Colindres said, the TSE will be deceiving the public because at the rate the process is going the census and identification card process will drag on through the year 2000.

Magistrate Jaime Romero Ventura of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance accused Colindres of having initiated the boycott against the campaign.

He said that the campaign's recently concluded first phase was only a "snapshot" so that during the second phase the mistakes that are usually present in all processes can be corrected.

Romero Ventura expressed confidence that the Assembly will approve a budget increase of 44 million colones instead of 33 million; otherwise, he said, the TSE will not have enough money to cover the expenses of a possible second round in the March 1994 elections.

Onusal Member Arrested on Drug Charges, Released

PA2904153093 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Like an escaping thief, and to the surprise of attorneys and the public at the San Salvador court, Justo Rafael Duperau, a Mexican citizen who is a member of the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal], sprinted in desperation away from pursuing members of the media to avoid making a statement.

The 9th Justice of the Peace of the Isidro Menendez Judicial Center released the Onusal member on 27 April. He had been arrested over the weekend on drug-trafficking charges with six members of the Police Force.

According to the court secretary, Duperau was released because, as a member of a diplomatic mission, he enjoys diplomatic immunity under international conventions ratified by El Salvador.

Duperau was turned over to Onusal members for the appropriate measures to be taken. Members of the media waited outside the court for him to come out and make a statement, but he refused, and instead fled at a run to the waiting Onusal vehicle, which took him away.

Guatemala

CPR Denounces Army's 'Huge' Military Action

PA3004225493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Permanent Refugees Commissions and Communities of Resistant People [CPR] on 30 April denounced what they have described as a huge military action by the Army against the civilian population of Ixtan, Quiche.

According to a communique issued by the two organizations during a news conference, more than 3,000 soldiers have been pursuing Ixtan's CPR since 2 April trying to destroy these communities. There are indications that the Army action could be expanded to cover Quiche's mountain region, the communique notes.

The organizations have charged that since 2 April the Army has increased its bombing activities and has been using up to five military airplanes as well as helicopters. The Army is also firing its artillery from Army barracks, the organizations charged.

It has been reported that the most affected towns are Los Angeles, Cuarto Pueblo, Mayalan, and Pueblo Nuevo, which have been bombed on 41 occasions this month. The areas mentioned are home to the CPR of Ixtan, the region chosen by new groups of repatriated Guatemalans.

The communique notes that as a result of these actions, more than 700 townspeople from the CPR of Los Angeles and of Cuarto Pueblo have had to seek temporary refuge in Mexico because they are being pursued by the Guatemalan Army.

Other CPR's have been moving from one place to another to safeguard the lives of their members, including women, elderly people, and children. Hundreds of houses have been destroyed, tons of beans and corn have been either destroyed or stolen, and the Army has stolen community livestock. It has also been charged that in the Las Tierras area, civilian patrolmen and the Army are carrying out big operations to attack the CPR's.

In view of this situation, the Permanent Refugees Commissions have requested that UN human rights expert Christian Poguchav makes an emergency visit to the region. The refugees commissions have also asked for an immediate visit to the area by the OAS Inter- American Human Rights Commission. They have called for an immediate verification visit to the Ixtan region by national and international human rights organizations. They have called for an immediate end to repressive actions by the Army against the region's civilian population and for an urgent meeting with Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano.

CUC Leads Antimilitary Rally Against PAC

PA0105233393 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 30 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] The Peasant Unity Committee (CUC) led a rally with a marked antimilitary message and against maintaining the presence of Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC) at department seats, municipalities, and parishes, located in the nation's center and in northwestern regions.

As the organization had announced, the activities took place at the Huehuetennago department seats, Quiche and Solola, and in the Santa Maria Chiquimula municipality, Totonicapan department.

The participants expressed what the organizers of the event called "the people's true feelings regarding the PAC and the nation's militarization in general...."

The CUC and other organizations, such as the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows, the Labor and Popular Action Union, the Mutual Support Group, and others, charge the PAC with human rights violations. They have even taken legal action against the heads of the PAC for alleged involvement in kidnappings and murders.

During the rally, there was also criticism of what the CUC called "the nation's militarization...."

In a message addressed to the media, the CUC reported harassment against people in Chupol, Chichicastenango, and Quiche by Army personnel, and blamed the military for other actions. Subsequently the CUC demanded from the Government and the Army the following:

"a) That the Army threats, control, and meddling in our communities end.

"We ask: How is it possible that the Army continues to threaten us? It will repeat the ravage of the land and the massacre of our people if we do not support them.
"b) That they assume with responsibility and political willingness a dialogue with the Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity, and accept the participation of civilian society in the dialogue."

Sources linked to the Armed Forces dismissed the weight of the demands.

URNG Communique Conditions Cease-Fire With Disbanding of PAC

PA0205031593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1901 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 May (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 1 May said that it cannot talk about an "imminent" cease-fire if there is no negotiated political solution to the conflict in that Central American country.

A communique issued by the URNG on 1 May asserts that "it is very daring" to speak of a cease-fire if the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC) are not disbanded and 50 percent of the Army demilitarized.

Miguel Sandoval, member of the URNG political-diplomatic commission, stated that it is necessary to discuss in depth, at the negotiating table in Mexico, all the topics on the agenda before ending the armed conflict.

A cease-fire alone will not attain peace, the URNG leader reiterated; it is necessary to solve all the problems that led to the war.

Manuel Conde Orellana, president of the Government Commission for Peace, believes that cease-fire agreements and the verification of the end to the armed conflict could be reached at the next peace meeting.

The peace negotiations will resume on 5 May in Mexico. It is expected that at that time the schedule for the peace agreement groundwork and the signing of an overall human rights agreement will be established.

Government Rejects OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission 'Criticism'

PA0105230393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government on 1 May rejected the criticism of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH) because it finds its views quite far from the truth.

Although the document has not yet been made public, Guatemalan Human Rights Attorney Ramiro de Leon Carpio said that it is "critical, drastic, and indicates severe violations." De Leon said that the CIDH report corresponds with his 1992 resolution and with that of UN expert Christian Tomuschat, who acknowledged an improvement in the situation but also pointed out persistent personal rights violations.

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry announced that a commission headed by presidential advisor Bernardo Neumann traveled to Washington to inform the CIDH of the government's disagreement with the report.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez said the resolution was rejected because "it contains opinions and value judgements that are far from reality."

The human rights issue is the main stumbling block the government and Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) have been unable to resolve during the peace negotiations they have been holding in Mexico since April 1991.

Guatemala is the only Central American country an ongoing war has claimed over 150,000 lives, according to private humanitarian organizations.

Honduras

Callejas Holds Weekly News Conference 26 Apr

PA3004153293 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Weekly news conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified reporters at the Government House in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] [words indistinct] will you appoint a commission that will draft the bill to create the Prosecutor General's Office [Ministerio Publico] as well as the commission that will train the police—in other words, what the Ad Hoc Commission recommended.

[Callejas] I met with Dr. Francisco Cardona Arguelles on 23 April; we completely reviewed the work schedule. Between today and tomorrow we will begin implementing the various recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission. This ranges from the appointment of the commissions to study and regulate the police and designing legislation for the Attorney General's Office, to inviting presidential candidates to agree on proposals to do with removing politics from the Judicial Branch. Probably between today and tomorrow, or by 3 May at the latest, I will hand you a complete schedule of the various actions, listing the time frame and the names that will make up the various commissions proposed by the Ad Hoc Commission.

[Valeriano] Francisco Valeriano, HRN. I would like to ask you about the DIN [Department of National Investigation] intervention commission and whether they have a date set to issue their final report and if they are keeping you abreast of their work. On another topic, one of the media reported today that the Honduran Government already is negotiating with the World Bank a possible privatization of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE]. How true is this?

[Callejas] Regarding the first question, I have indeed met three times with the DIN intervention commission and they have kept me informed continuously.

We have not established a definite deadline for their final report. They are, however, doing great work and I hope the efforts of the intervention commission will provide us with information leading to the creation of the Criminal Investigation Directorate, DIC, which will be under the Prosecutor General's Office.

Everything is interconnected in the sense that there should be legislation for the Prosecutor General's Office leading to the creation of the DIC through it. This commission is doing excellent work. Specifically, this past week when I met with the Ad Hoc Commission, which was holding its last session, we agreed the DIN intervention commission should be under Dr. Jose Francisco Cardona Arguelles, the representative of the president of the Republic. In addition to serving as representative of the Executive Branch he will serve as secretary—to give him a title—responsible for following up on all recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission.

As for your second question: no; the answer is negative. We are saying the ENEE currently is taking public bids for a 70-110 megawatt turbine that will meet electricity shortages from 1994 to 1996. We think—and this is a recommendation for the various ENEE sectors—that interested private businessmen should have the opportunity to invest in the generation of electricity, which would be sold to the ENEE.

We are saying the ENEE—subjected to the approval of the Congress—could be allowed to buy private sector generated electricity. It could be thermal electricity, electricity generated jointly with the sugar mills, or hydroelectric power, if anyone wishes to invest in this area. We are, however, not talking about the privatization of the ENEE, but about allowing the ENEE to purchase electricity produced by the private sector for various reasons, some of which meet national interests. Certain countries, such as Guatemala, already have two companies, one of which has joint capital.

We are buying electricity from Nicaragua, Panama, and Costa Rica, and thus, we should also be able to purchase electricity from private businessmen willing to invest in the generation of electricity in the same way we purchase electricity from public institutions of other countries regardless of whether thermal electricity, joint generation with sugar mills, or hydroelectric power is involved. We also have some proposals to generate electricity through windmills. The government is not interested in making these investments but in purchasing electricity. If this were feasible we would indeed propose giving the ENEE authorization to purchase electricity from private concerns interested in generating it. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] copyright law has generated controversy. The U.S. Attorney General has said her country could suspend selectively the entry of Honduran products should our Congress fail to pass a law. Is your government willing to promote the copyright law in Congress to avert U.S. sanctions?

[Callejas] Of course. They are commitments we acquired when we reached the Caribbean Basin agreement. These are among the commitments the nation acquired some time ago. Laws of this nature certainly contain profound contradictions among interest groups in our country as in other Latin American countries.

The Honduran Government is facing a very complex dilemma. First, it has to comply with Caribbean Basin commitments, and second, the failure to approve a law that is acceptable to the United States could lead the United States unilaterally to leave our country out of the general preferences system. This would affect approximately $80 million to $100 million worth of Honduran products that would no longer have access to the U.S. market. In view of this, the government will promote the signing of a copyright law as soon as possible.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] wife of being involved in crimes and even requested protection from the human rights commissioner. What will the government do?

[Callejas] Nothing.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the government minister said that in the same fashion as the Ad Hoc Commission was created through a council of ministers the commission could also be eliminated through another council. This is to ensure action is taken in this regard.

[Callejas] Yes, we are working on an executive decree to eliminate the Ad Hoc Commission. The commission must give an account of its operations because it handled an operations fund of 100,000 lempiras and must now proceed to close the account. We cannot issue an executive decree until the commission closes the 100,000 lempira fund satisfactorily. They are in the process of doing this and all accounts appear to be clear.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of the "This Very Day" newscast. I want to refer to the continuity of the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations. Some groups—among them the Bar Association—think the creation of the Prosecutor General's Office without constitutional reforms violates the Constitution. You said a consensus will be reached with the political parties. Does this involve the negotiation of constitutional reforms to create the Prosecutor General's Office or has a decision been made to create it through another [secundaria] law?

[Callejas] The Ad Hoc Commission and some attorneys have said the Prosecutor General's Office can be created without constitutional reforms. The Executive Branch will welcome the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations. The Prosecutor General's Office is essential to Honduran society. It is the appropriate mechanism to defend the citizens' rights and an effective juridical-administrative reply to violent actions.

Thus, the Executive Branch will accept the bill as recommended by the Ad Hoc Commission to the Congress of the Republic. If the Legislative Branch thinks there are other options, I would be willing to cooperate with the Congress to promulgate the respective legislation as soon as possible.

We want this to occur within 90 days because we think the creation of the Prosecutor General's Office calls for the immediate creation of the DIC.

The refusal to create a Prosecutor General's Office has significant consequences of an institutional character because it leaves the DIN within the framework of the Public Security Forces. Consequently, there are no transfer mechanisms for the state's investigation systems. This is the urgency of the matter, therefore, more than a legal debate....[pauses] because this could be carried out in different ways. [sentence as heard] The Executive Branch position is that the state's modernization—in this specific case the creation of the Prosecutor General's Office—is an imperative matter that must be acted upon immediately. It must be discussed immediately to enact the corresponding law.

[Reporter] As of 1 May, Nicaragua will join this integration process. What was achieved during your recent tour? What activities are foreseen to further encourage Panama and Costa Rica to join the integration process?

[Callejas] The results are very favorable. After 1 May, and then the after 1 June, the effects on the movement of persons and assets in the Central American region—including Nicaragua—will be of a permanent character. Costa Rica has decided that it will not participate in this part of the process. We respect Costa Rica's position. Nevertheless, at the last meeting we held with Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano, we made it known to the Costa Rican industrialists in Guatemala that they must be conscious that the free transit of merchandise will ease trade among four nations while it will limit the participation of the products that come from Costa Rica. The Costa Rican industrialist will have to continue with the current procedures, they will have to continue with passports, with visas....[pauses] no, visas are not used. They will have to continue with passports, and with the

payment of taxes. These matters affect us administratively and they affect them competitively.

The truth is that we will continue to press the Costa Rican Government to adopt some measures that do not affect their internal interests and thereby accelerate the Central American integration process. Up to now, the process is very positive. In the past years we have doubled our trade with Central America and we hope that by the year 2000 there will be at least $2 billion in inter- Central American trade.

[Reporter] Good morning Mr. President. Referring to the process for DIN modernization, there are reports about aid that will be reportedly requested from friendly nations. I want to know: Do you have plans for this? Have you already requested this aid? From what countries you have requested it?

[Callejas] First of all we received advice from the Mexican Attorney General's Office. A leading legal expert has been here, and is still here. He has helped establish the constitutional and legal framework for the DIN and suggestions concerning the role of the Attorney General's Office. We have also been accompanied by a Spanish Government official and I hope we will receive his recommendations relatively soon. Also, I have issued instructions to Dr. Francisco Cardona [chairman of the National Party of Honduras political commission] to contact the U.S. Embassy and review the possibility of requesting aid from the U.S. investigative agencies, meaning the FBI. The goal is to establish some type of agreement concerning another suggestion from the Ad Hoc Commission, meaning the investigation of cases that have yet to be solved by the DIN. Therefore, we have contacted three countries and we have achieved tangible results from two of them—Mexico and Spain. We expect to quickly achieve something with the U.S. Government to receive FBI assistance. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What commitment do you have with the U.S. Army. Don't you think that you should act the hero and have all foreign forces pull out from the country, or is it perhaps that the Honduran Army is incapable of stopping drug trafficking?

[Callejas] The Honduran Army and Honduran society are incapable of stopping drug trafficking. If there is no international cooperation nor an effort by the whole world, it would be impossible to stop drug trafficking. Not even the most powerful countries of the world can fight drug trafficking alone, and less so a nation such as ours which does not have enough resources.

It would be irresponsible for me to act as if Honduras were capable of fighting drug trafficking, so we will maintain our commitments with other countries of the world. I have commitments with my country. Some of these commitments involve agreements with the U.S. Southern Command to expeditiously secure information and actions necessary for the struggle against drug trafficking.

In spite of political and demagogic suggestions, I believe that the cancellation of the Palmerola Air base, where U.S. troops are stationed, would produce big problems for the struggle against drug trafficking in Honduras. The handling of radars and information prompts deployments, and the creation of a Caribbean zone to fight drug trafficking requires the U.S. forces' presence in Palmerola, Comayagua Department.

It is important for us to have it this way. Like it or not, the fact is that as long as there is drug trafficking, our countries will have to act in line with these interests.

Helicopters are mobilized from the Palmerola Air Base, which is also used as part of an air information system that covers the Caribbean and all of Central America. The Honduran Government would do great harm to our country and to the American continent if we were to adopt a reckless decision that could produce a pullout from Honduras of the U.S. forces, which are a vital element in the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Reporter] We have seen no Honduran Government action to file charges against groups that a long time ago downed a helicopter on the Honduran-Salvadoran border. The Salvadoran Government is already trying to resolve its problems and is making accusations. Your administration will draw to an end and this crime, this terrorist action, will go unpunished. Colonel Danilo Carvajal died as a result of that action. Do you have anything to say, please?

[Callejas] Of course. We have carried out investigations. The Foreign Ministry has adopted a position on this. There is important legal information on this matter. We have drawn up a strategy on this, but I am not going to give the details here. We drew up this strategy in a most appropriate way to establish responsibilities. The government has not forgotten Colonel Carvajal's death, but the fact is that there are legal mechanisms that must be followed in Salvadoran courts. This is something we have been analyzing with the Foreign Ministry's legal experts.

[Reporter] Apparently, the case has been closed in El Salvador, Mr. President, and there is no clear information in this regard.

[Callejas] It could be that from a legal viewpoint it was decided that there was no way of proceeding on charges of that nature.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President.

Congress Protests Incident With Deputy at U.S. Embassy

PA3004170393 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The National Congress on 28 April passed a resolution for the Foreign Ministry to send a protest to the U.S. State Department about U.S. Ambassador Crescencio Arcos' "disrespectful behavior."

The resolution was approved after reading a letter sent by Ambassador Arcos to the National Congress saying he saw no reason to penalize the security personnel who on 15 April confiscated an automatic pistol from Nationalist Party Deputy Leda Lizzette Pagan Rodriguez.

Several deputies reacted with annoyance at the U.S. Embassy's treatment of Deputy Pagan.

After hearing Ambassador Arcos' letter, Pagan told the other deputies the details of the incident.

She said she went to the U.S. Embassy at 1000, approximately, to request a visa for several Choloma municipal officials. No one asked her to hand over the pistol. She took it from her purse and left it in the guard's care because no one is allowed to go in armed.

She said the guard took the pistol, put it into an envelope together with the contents of her purse, including a couple of chewing gum sticks, and gave her a slip of paper with a number. Then she went in.

"I finished my business. At the door, there was not only one, but three guards, who told me: 'Madam, you are in trouble. The pistol you brought in fired by itself.' I replied: 'Can a pistol fire by itself? If it did it was because you touched it.'

"He went on to say: 'The problem here is that you never said the pistol was loaded.' I replied: 'And what did you want me to do? I come from outside, where it is dangerous to have an unloaded firearm. So I am not to be held responsible for the incident.'"

Pagan admitted she had borrowed the pistol from Liberal Party Deputy Roberto Micheletti, that at the door an American informed her the bullet ruined a camera that someone had left there in deposit, and that she had to pay for it.

"I told him: 'No, sir, I am not responsible for the camera. I did not fire the pistol. It fired itself when the man here touched it.' The American then told me: 'You will have to sign a report assuming responsibility.' I replied: 'I will not sign anything because I did not fire the pistol. Now I want to leave.'

"The guard at the gate locked it and refused to let me out. About five minutes had passed. 'You must wait 10 minutes,' they told me, 'for an inspector to draft a report.' But I replied I did not have to wait one single minute. 'You cannot hold me here against my will. I want to leave.'

"At that moment, other persons were filing out, so I took the opportunity and went out, too. Three guards followed me and told me: 'Madam, come back to the Embassy, please.' I said: 'I have nothing to do at the Embassy. I will be at the Congress, should anything be required of me.'

Pagan said she was reporting these things in public, not because she was a deputy, but because "as a lady, she deserved more respect. You can imagine what they would do to a poor Honduran who does not hold a deputy's carnet."

"We should demand more respect from the U.S. Embassy. It is time for them to hold us in the proper status."

After Pagan's report, many deputies harshly criticized the U.S. Embassy for the "outrages" continually perpetrated against Honduran citizens.

Deputy Michelletti said he lent Pagan the pistol because she had been assaulted last week. He added it is impossible for the pistol to fire by itself without someone handling it.

"Deputy Pagan is right. Many Hondurans are abused by individuals who show no respect for anyone, deputies or otherwise. They are worse than the canton corporals who worked in banana plantations' barracks some 30 years ago."

Later, Andres Torres introduced a proposal to protest to the U.S. Department of State against Ambassador Arcos' disrespectful behavior. After a short debate, the proposal was modified slightly and made a resolution, to make it stronger. This is the text of the resolution:

1. The president of the Republic will be asked to instruct the Honduran Foreign Ministry to file a strong protest with the U.S. Department of State over the ambassador's disrespectful and improper behavior. The ambassador addressed the National Congress casting doubts on Deputy Pagan's report on the outrage perpetrated against her by the U.S. Embassy security personnel at 1000 on 15 April. The deputy was humiliated, withheld, and then chased by security members as far as the parking lot, pressuring her into returning to the Embassy building.
2. A report on this shameful incident will be sent to the U.S. Congress.

Congress President Remarks on Incidents With U.S. Embassy

PA3004232493 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Interview with Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Are there any hard feelings resulting from some recent incidents that have developed with the U.S. Embassy. Specifically, I am referring to interference in Honduran internal affairs, in addition to the somewhat harsh treatment of some deputies, such as Lea Pagan?

[Irias] On 28 April while at the National Congress of the Republic, we learned of a recent accusation made by Deputy Lea Pagan Rodriguez with respect to the fact that her citizens' rights had been violated during a visit

to the U.S. Embassy. The issue was widely discussed and clarified on 28 April. I believe that now is an appropriate time to say to the Honduran people that our relations with the U.S. Government are quite normal. We are two friendly nations who have traditionally maintained excellent relations. We believe that incidents such as the one that recently occurred at the U.S. Embassy should not influence relations between two countries that respect each other and wish to continue with a friendship that has been going on for so many years. [passage omitted] [Reporter] Are you aware of any [words indistinct]?

[Irias] I am not aware of any abuse incident involving U.S. Ambassador Arcos.

[Reporter] It is being said that this tense situation between Congress and the U.S. Embassy is a result of Congress not approving the proposal bill related to intellectual property rights. Is this true?

[Irias] First of all, please allow me to say that there is no tension between the U.S. Embassy and Congress. The fact that a deputy suggested a motion on 28 April calling on our country to assist another country in need of help such as Cuba is no need to [words indistinct]. Cuba has always aided us whenever we needed help. Despite their limited resources, Cuban aid has always reached Honduras when we needed it. For example, whenever we experienced natural disasters Cuba helped. When we recently had serious trouble confronting an epidemic, Cuba sent medical assistance. I believe we are duty bound to maintain our relationship with Cuba. If the United States still maintains an interest section in Cuba then, I see no reason why Honduras should not do likewise. Why should we argue with a country that has nothing against us just because that country has differences with a third country. Next, I want to clarify that the intellectual property rights bill proposal has not yet been sent to Congress. Once we receive it we will handle it just as any other proposal. It is going to be discussed extensively, and I can guarantee that it will be approved according to our nation's interests, without being influenced by the interests of other nations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] ... U.S. Ambassador [Crescencio] Arcos with respect to [words indistinct]?

[Irias] I have no information that he is pushing for this bill to be approved. At least here in Congress, absolutely no one has been exerting pressure for us to pass the bill. I have heard and read reports from some media sources implying the same thing. I want to set the record straight by saying that this is completely false. I would rather believe that this is mere speculation. The deputies in Congress will not allow this to take place, then we will [passage omitted including indistinct portions].

[Reporter] There have been proposals by members of the Electoral Tribunal to extend the presidential term to six years. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Irias] Look, I believe all such proposals must be first discussed within the political parties. It would be inappropiate for us here in Congress to legislate on such an issue when we have not even spoken to our respective parties. I believe that before any such changes are implemented talks will have to take place between all party leaders. Any opinion I might venture on this issue at this time is open to misinterpretation and speculation since there will be talk that President [Rafael] Callejas will want to remain in office longer. I must say that this is completely false. He does not seek to remain any longer, nor would congress stand idly by under such circumstances. I believe that from the electoral point of view, many reforms will have to made in our country. However, before this can be done, the political parties will first have to talk and see how we can first consolidate democracy in our country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] It is being rumored in political circles that differences between you and Arcos originate from your opposition to an intellectual property rights bill because you own a cable television service.

[Irias] I have no differences with the U.S. ambassador. Although our relationship does not include a very close friendship, there is respect between us. The positions we hold have obviously brought about some type of relationship. I have stated clearly that I am not opposed to the intellectual property rights bill. I have contacted the owners of the Honduras Cable Television Association and they are not opposed to the bill either. I have already said that the proposal has not yet reached Congress. Once it does, we will proceed with an in-depth evaluation. I want to reiterate what I said before: We will approve the bill once it gets to Congress, but always keeping Honduran interests rather than foreign interests in mind.

[Reporter] Then the law is being analyzed?

[Irias] The Honduran Private Sector Council, the Cable Television Association, and the Economy Ministry have held meetings. Those organizations have been analyzing the proposal for some time now, but it has not yet reached Congress. I have heard the rumors about opposition in Congress; that we do not want to approve it or that it is not been approved because the Congress president is opposed. Those rumors are completely false. The bill proposal has not been sent to Congress yet, and as long as it is not in Congress it is inappropriate to target specific individuals and blame them for the bill not being approved. A significant portion of the Honduran population believes Congress' efforts to help the Cuban people, especially the children, are positive. Some sectors, however, have expressed concern that this might be perceived as a pat on the back for a regime that has lasted more than 30 years. I want to be very clear about my 28 April statements and to take advantage of the opportunity you are giving me here today. I want to clearly say that I am completely opposed to the regime in Cuba. I believe it is mistaken. However, every country should be respected regardless of its size. This is something to

which no other country should object, regardless of its might. Despite the fact that we Hondurans, as a democratic nation, do not share the Cuban people's ideology, as human beings they are similar to all of us. I have had the opportunity to travel to Cuba on two occasions. I have spoken with them. When you sit down with them it is possible to understand that they are just like us; they speak our same language; they have the same problems we do; and they think like Latin Americans. Therefore, I believe the least we can do for them is to give them a hand now that they are facing so many hardships.

Nicaragua

* C. Chamorro Criticizes Reportage on Ibarra

93CA0102C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 10

[Commentary by LA PRENSA President Cristiana Chamorro B.]

[Text] After a week of absence from LA PRENSA, my colleagues, brothers in the newspaper office and other friends who were offended by the great attention LA PRENSA gave to Antonio Ibarra, asked for my opinion on the publication of the report he presented to a U.S. congressional committee and on the clarification note, which were published in LA PRENSA.

From a strictly professional point of view, we need to focus this analysis on two basic questions. First: to what point did LA PRENSA truly comply "with its inescapable duty to inform the people of Nicaragua about this obviously newsworthy document"? And second: up to what point was it accurate to say that "this does not imply that this newspaper accepts Mr. Ibarra's statements as true, and it certainly does not endorse those opinions"?

We have asked ourselves both questions two, three, or a thousand times, trying to come to terms with the philosophy of the clarification and its supposed ethical, political, and professional criteria. Underlying both questions are some vital aspects related to freedom of expression, the means of exercising this freedom, the possession of information, and our responsibility in releasing this information. These are all issues for reflection among journalists and controversial points with different members of the national media. When we journalists speak of these matters, we cannot try to deceive the other person, as "gypsies do not read each other's palms."

Given our "inescapable duty" to inform the people, we maintain and we agree that information belongs to the readers, to all, and not just to specific groups or sectors. We Nicaraguans have the right to learn about all things of importance to us, whether or not the government likes it, whether or not the parties like it, whether or not the editors and publishers of our newspapers like it. Covering up, hiding, guiding, or manipulating information is a betrayal of that pledge to our readers, it is a violation of our "inescapable duty" to inform. Doing that would erode and undermine the media's credibility, the major asset of enterprises that deal in information.

If we start from this premise and then compare the "Ibarra report" with the information published, strangely, we find "sensitivity" on the part of LA PRENSA toward the president of the Republic, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Her name is deleted when a direct accusation is made against the president. We reject such favors, not in order to be unpleasant, but because the country needed to know the capacity for lies published in all its fullness. If we continued to do this, it might be interpreted as intentionally trimming this information, for by attacking Violeta Chamorro, an unchallengeable person, the "newsworthy value" of the report would be weakened and would lose credibility, along with the newspaper that published it.

I have always believed that in a system with open opinion, in a pluralistic and democratic society like the one we are working to consolidate for Nicaragua, the communications media, as influential shapers of opinion, have more than just a legal responsibility. We have both a moral and an ethical responsibility. If we cover up information, we fail in our "inescapable duty" to inform the people, and we also reveal the fragility still present in some minds about this ethical and moral role of democratic and truly free journalism.

The second question concerns the statement that publication "does not imply that this newspaper accepts Mr. Ibarra's statements as true, and it certainly does not endorse them." Right away it would appear that the intention was to erase from the memory of our readers the fact that Mr. Ibarra has given an infinity of different versions, that the former comptroller of the Republic cited as criminal the author of the report published by LA PRENSA, that the general prosecutor found grounds to file criminal charges, exonerating many of those whom Mr. Ibarra had attacked, and that a Nicaraguan judge sentenced him to prison and sought the extradition of this Mr. Ibarra. All that did not prevent the contents of this report from being possibly the most important news of the week. The rulings of democratic institutions do deduct some validity from the statement that "it was an inescapable duty" to publish it, and it is also important to analyze the statement about not vouching for its credibility.

In journalism, it is difficult for the Ibarra report to be accepted or rejected in a clarification note, especially if we take into account that what this man himself has said is being used in LA PRENSA as material for news reports and humor, and his words are even being incorporated in opinion articles and editorials. Though the clarification says one thing, the facts demonstrate the contrary.

The contradiction between the clarification note and what we observe in practice is proof that in journalism, our responsibility for public actions cannot be passed on.

It is false to say that we give the people what they ask for. It is more honest to say we give them what we believe we have to give. It is courageous to accept that our responsibility for information is not transferrable. Editors, reporters, and the media in general are solely responsible for their actions. It would have been more consistent with "truth and justice" to say that there was total or partial sympathy for the lucubrations of Mr. Ibarra, and to recognize that only what it was desired that the people should know was published in that report.

If that was not the way our readers and our reporters understood the matter, no one would have sent me the complaints or the questions that have led me to write on this issue. And for me this has also become an "inescapable duty," a reflection that I will conclude by thinking that a person who does not detect a lie, perhaps may be only naive. However, the person who sees the lie but who tries to have that lie accepted as truth, is committing a crime, or at least wanting to falsify the facts.

Nicaragua needs constructive journalism and reporters who will give us a helping hand, so that together we may seek the truth.

* Economy's Challenges to FSLN Viewed

93CA0102D Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
24 Mar 93 p 13

[Commentary by Monica Baltodano]

[Text] This crisis is upon us. Neither the nation nor Sandinism can remain stuck in inertia that will clearly lead to a devastating social explosion. The statistics are irrefutable. Along with the death of inflation died jobs, credit, production policies, the state's guiding role, protection for production, the policies of abundance, technical assistance, etc.

The neoliberal doctrinaires have imposed their monetary plan; they have once again promoted the market as the golden calf. They offer macroeconomic equilibria, while the people are left in the greatest social misery they have known in recent times.

Without a more productive policy than what the market decides and reliance on the generosity of programs financed from abroad, at bank windows the hopes of small and midsized producers are dying. Without property titles, without legitimacy in the capital market, without a background and without backers, they are seeing the same people as always once again dividing up the limited available resources.

The bourgeois counterreform is advancing implacably, the old financial groups are reforming, and in response to the economic crisis they are maximizing their profits by speculation and commerce. And production? Well, just forget about it.

The limited liquid resources are being sacrificed to sustain an insupportable monetary stability and imports of luxury goods, while our rural areas are being asphyxiated, and with them, our only viable course: the difficult and lengthy process of the productive rehabilitation of the nation, which has no other road to recovery than our extensive agricultural and livestock sector.

This is the material and social basis for the discontent on which the far right is capitalizing exclusively and demagogically. This is the in-depth cause providing the spark for the dangerous and hostile situation in Nicaragua's rural areas. It is not so much the nation's limited economic resources, as the limitations and exclusions of an economic policy that is marginalizing the majority, and even worse, the principal and potential agents for economic recovery.

The market may act impartially, but it strikes down those on the bottom: Sandinists and non-Sandinists alike. It is no accident that the real campesinos in the resistance today take the hand held out to them by their brothers in the organized sector of rural Sandinism.

The cities are strangling under the pressures of unemployment, poverty, increasing crime, and cutbacks in education and health programs.

This cannot and must not continue. This is now the principal challenge facing Sandinism: to formulate clearly its plans to recover from the national crisis. This recovery will not be easy, and it cannot be the result of political agreements by tiny cliques.

Sandinism is not and cannot be a party to a government with such an economic policy, unless it is willing to pay the price of its dispersion and breakup as a revolutionary party.

The social nature of the road to recovery requires economic and social agents that will become the political driving force that will work, promote, plan, and articulate this recovery.

To do this, Sandinism and the nation have the land and the labor force. With the density of small and midsized producers, UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], the cooperatives and all our forms of association, the Sandinist and the resistance campesinos, access of former combatants to property, and the APT [Workers' Ownership Sector] we can provide the productive and national forces should truly be the focus of our political concerns and objectives.

There is no doubt that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], like all leftist forces in the world, faces no small or easy problems. We certainly need to solve our problems. Still, in this focus on our difficulties we must be careful not to fall into the trap of internalism and structuralism, of facile language that, while apparently calling a spade a spade, places us in danger of alienating and distancing ourselves from society's true and most urgent problems.

Anxiety must yield to the optimism of combat, to a positive view of the vast potential of our own forces; to

the skills and the best of our experience as a party; to the strength of Sandinist unity, internal fraternity and cooperation; and above all, to a clear distinction, in the priorities on today's agenda, between those that are primary and those that are secondary issues.

* LA PRENSA Editors, Changes Discussed

93CA0097C Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 11-18 Mar 93 p 9

[Commentary by Erick Aguirre]

[Text] It is not that I like to get involved in things of no importance to me, but the search for truth and the conflict over political interests and editorial policy that has been shaping up at LA PRENSA for several months has turned out to be captivating, at least for me.

It all began—or came to a head—with the arrival, after years of absence, of the eldest son of Dr. Chamorro Cardenal, who, even though he claims that those who criticize or satirize him have some hidden personal resentment toward him, has not matured sufficiently to face up to the complexities of a political process like the one in which Nicaraguan society has been involved since just before his father's murder.

Daily events confirm my statement.

One has to recognize that LA PRENSA has perhaps been the newspaper company with the greatest prestige and tradition in Nicaragua for the past three-quarters of this century.

To say LA PRENSA here or anywhere else (without considering the less honorable periods of its editorial management) is to speak of a good newspaper in strictly professional, journalistic terms.

The very best of the last two or three generations have spent time there. Their names? Jose Francisco Borgen, Horacio Ruiz, Danilo Aguirre, Edgard Tijerino, and others.

For the past two years or so, particularly and significantly after the change in government in 1990, LA PRENSA has been taking on a new professional team: younger, fresher, more open, less conservative, and, above all, without excessive political passions or prejudices that might shroud their professional judgment.

However, this is where the Gordian knot of its current political-editorial complexity begins to be tied. It is precisely this new journalistic team (which, thanks to certain internal reforms not exactly promoted by Chamorro, Jr., imposed itself on an "old guard" forged in the fiercest times of anti-Sandinism) that has had to confront the most blatant aspects of the newspaper's editorial duality.

Actually, such conflicts are nothing new at LA PRENSA. Roughly speaking, they go back to the 1970's, with the integration into its news, editorial, graphics, literary, and production staff of a diversity of highly politicized elements resulting from the level of repression of the Somoza regime at the time.

Its climax came with the crisis in 1980 that ended up splitting the newspaper in two, resulting in the creation of a new newspaper, EL NUEVO DIARIO, which has occupied one of the best market spots of the written press, precisely because it comes from the most deeply rooted technical, professional, and political tradition of LA PRENSA.

The situation today is quite different. Before Pedro, Jr. arrived from Taiwan, control of editorial policy was in the hands of his sister, Cristiana Chamorro, who painstakingly reshaped the editing staff and filled it with the most varied talents, turning it into a staff reminiscent of the heyday of the weekly LA CRONICA. It became multicolored, politically speaking, with markedly independent opinions held by every writer.

Nevertheless, she tried too hard to place the seal of the new government's policy of national reconciliation on the newspaper's pages, which was a point for her then most belligerent internal adversary, the recently named editor, Horacio Ruiz Solis.

While politically valid, Cristiana's intention should have been carried out in a more balanced fashion, one more in harmony with the fluctuating freedom of opinion prevailing in the news world. This would have won her greater support from the group she had so zealously built.

I once said: Politically speaking, I am for Cristiana, but journalistically speaking, I believe that greater independence of LA PRENSA from the government would be more appropriate. This is a point which, from the commercial standpoint of the newspaper itself, went against Cristiana's intention. An independent newspaper, or rather, a newspaper constantly in the opposition is a successful newspaper in Nicaragua. If this is not so, let those at EL NUEVO DIARIO say so.

The fact is that today, after several months of pitched battle, the two editors (Pablo Antonio Cuadra and Horacio Ruiz) and the assistant editor (Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Jr.), with the support of manager and shareholder Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, ended up winning the battle with Cristiana, who, I am told, had no other choice than to "throw in the towel."

The last public confrontation they had was the quarrel over the university page, during which the group mentioned paraded its control within the newspaper, responding almost indifferently on the first page to Cristiana's disagreement made public in the opinion section concerning the "new orientation" that the editors gave the student section.

However, favoring greater independence on the part of LA PRENSA from the government does not mean that I sincerely believe that LA PRENSA is truly independent

today. Ethical sins consisting of deliberate omissions of many truthful opinions from its pages are steadily increasing. It is true that balance and distance from the constant government position have become more of an open inclination toward specific political interests and reflect a destabilizing, ill-motivated attitude toward a government that, not just because it is headed by someone from its own family, but because she was legitimately elected, is deserving of a less cunning opposition.

Nor is it worthwhile to go into the sick virulence unleashed against Sandinism because this has already become a typical form of behavior of LA PRENSA over the past 12 years. Pluralism and the democratic values of respect for one's adversary were apparently left behind on the diplomatic desk in Taiwan or totally slipped the mind of Ruiz, LA PRENSA's newest editor.

However, of the latter it is said that even though he is now free of the dispute with Cristiana, the fact that he shares many of the political opinions of Pedro, Jr. has, curiously enough, drawn him away from the daily editorial work of the newspaper.

All meetings, decisions, topics, and headlines are decided upon by Junior and he has his editors enforce his decisions, not without great difficulty in the case of Pedro Javier Solis or Roger Suarez, but with less difficulty in that of Jose Davila and Edwin Yllescas. The latter, a conservative deputy during the last legislative session of the 1980's, a poet and a man who enjoys good relations with Sandinists, Social Christians, or any other political affiliation, seems to have changed a great deal since Cristiana threw in the towel.

He apparently had no other choice than to adapt to the sometimes infantile opinions of his new assistant editor. If this is so at this level, then what can one imagine in the case of the writers themselves?

It has been reported that the assistant editor gathered them together recently to warn them indirectly that anyone unwilling to adapt to his editorial policy and judgment could just go over to the other side. The exemplary warning could not have been better: the drastic change in personnel made by the university section.

I am a personal friend of many of the new LA PRENSA writers. I met some of them under other circumstances, some at the university. I know that most of them have adopted a common philosophy toward the problem: keeping their jobs.

"Here we are in no position to choose the political line," they advise one another. "Here we have to follow the line of the person in charge." At least since they know that Pedro is now solely in charge, they have been relieved of a great burden: the uncertainty of being at the heart of a political conflict and not knowing what to do or how to work.

It was no laughing matter, I am told. At the height of the tension, one would write a headline and another would come and tell him to change it. There were news stories with paragraphs added from all over, making some articles a veritable duke's mixture.

If anyone would seek to deny this, let him read the most recent interview with Arnoldo Aleman, forced by Pedro to put an end once and for all to the freedom of opinion of journalist Ivan Olivares concerning that municipal official, freedom that had "bothered" the mayor of the capital. Junior ended up removing Olivares and replacing him with a female journalist more to Aleman's "liking." However, he first humiliated Ivan, making him cosign a stale interview whose sole objective was simply to smooth things over with the old judge of Managua.

There is one case, however, on which I would like to make a final digression. I repeat that it is not my intention to get involved in things of no importance to me. I have learned that Felix Xavier Navarrete has chosen to follow Yllescas' strategy on Chamorro's unyielding childishness. It is said that he is the one spouting the philosophy of "keeping our jobs," that "there is no choice but to do what they say."

However, an article of opinion with airs of Montesco is not necessarily an obligation imposed. What a strange way of surviving my old friend has chosen, that skeptical comrade of the best days of our youth, a comrade I should not like to have to remind—in order not to have to give up his friendship—of his old phrases from his days as an enthusiastic revolutionary, although I would like to remind him of our common admiration for Camus.

Deep within himself, every man retains a wellspring that nourishes what he is and what he says throughout his life. When that spring dries up, we are ready for silence or drawing rooms. It is that spring that protects us from two opposing dangers that threaten us: satisfaction and resentment.

* Accuracy of Radio Listener Survey Disputed

93CA0097A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 6

[Commentary by Fabio Gadea Mantilla]

[Text] When one wants to inform people of the death of a relative, one calls the Corporation and condolences soon begin to arrive. Merchants wishing to sell any item put an advertisement or two in the Corporation and everything is soon sold. The same is true of the daily newspaper LA PRENSA. If one wants to rent a house or sell something, by taking out a classified ad that costs four cents, one rents the house or sells the item in the blink of an eye.

These things are basic and nothing new to anyone.

What I want to talk about are the radio polls or surveys that have recently begun to come out indicating that it is the most unpleasant radio stations that rank in first place. The usurped radio stations that preach hatred, agitation, strikes, riots, anarchy, and disorder are the ones most listened to, according to the polls.

To be faithful to the truth, one is forced to make a few important observations. The radio preference polls, those in which the citizen is asked which radio broadcasting station is his favorite, cannot reflect the real situation. Our people have been subjected to terror and tale-telling for over a decade. They are fearful and distrustful and can practically never answer truthfully. If one is approached by an unknown individual, notebook in hand, asking which radio station one listens to, it is difficult to know what to answer. One does not know who the individual doing the questioning is, has no idea about his ideology, and does not know whether he is a Sandinist or a democrat. One is careful and fearful in replying, probably afraid to say that one's favorite station is the Corporation because it opposes Sandinism.

In order to have a minimum margin of error, radio polls must be conducted at random, meaning that in addition to his professional training and good moral character, the interviewer must carry a radio receiver in order to verify, house by house, which station the people inside are listening to. That is what the Costa Rican Media Chamber does, for example, refusing to accept preferential surveys based on interviews.

The fuss made by radio stations claiming to be in first place although they are as unpopular as the party that grabbed them up is no more than that: pure fuss. Announcers can do what they want with their money, even invest it poorly if they so desire, but they must make it clear that their preferential polls have an enormous margin of error.

The expropriated radio stations can go around proclaiming that they are in first place, but everyone knows that the station that is heard and felt, that thunders and echoes throughout the nation, is the one that speaks the language of its people. There is no need to speak its name.

* Increase in Smuggling, Tax Evasion Described

93CA0097B Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 25 Feb-4 Mar 93 pp 6-7

[Article by Arquimedes Gonzalez Torres]

[Text] The streets of the Eastern Market gradually begin to emerge in the fleeting clarity of dawn between the outlines of hovels and old shelves, discolored, made out of old boards, used nails, and covered with black plastic to ward off the sunlight.

The bread vendors appear at five o'clock in the morning. They are between the ages of 10 and 15 and walk stiff-legged, with their heads buried in their chests. They are barefoot and stumble under the weight of the enormous baskets that give off the fragrance of bread just out of the oven. "White bread, bread sticks, bread pudding, bread custard," they repeat.

The early morning sounds and movement of human shadows handling large crates containing pants, shirts, socks, and underclothes from Panama via Costa Rica and smuggled into Nicaragua ruin the sleep of thousands of persons living in the Informal Urban Sector (SIU).

The wind blowing from all sides carries a tumult of jumbled voices as noisy as that of high water when it rushes over rocky ground.

"Minibusinesses," some call them, but with the meager capital they have in little boxes, they sell cigarettes or chiclets, shine shoes, or carry baskets.

Others sell meat, produce, shoes, spare parts for cars, toys, and even sexual exploitation.

Horrifying Statistics

If one compares statistics on employment, income, and poverty, it seems miraculous that the 20,000 persons who come to sell their wares daily at the Eastern Market even survive.

Free commerce relieves the misery of Nicaragua. It is bourgeois melancholy that makes everyone want to be a big businessman, some hoping to live better and others merely adopting an attitude of resignation.

In Managua, businesses have been set up in 48 out of every 100 houses. Nor is it any accident because information from the Investment Foundation for the Overall Economic Challenge [as published] (FIDEG) shows that income of the Informal Urban Sector was 37 percent higher in 1992 than it was in 1991.

Throughout the country, 65 percent of the Economically Active Population (PEA) is unemployed, meaning that more than 800,000 persons are out of work.

The government's economic package provides for the creation of over 20,000 jobs this year, which would benefit scarcely 2.5 percent of all unemployed persons.

By November 1992, 701,844 persons were living in the capital, the same institution says, 399,000 of them unemployed. Only 302,442 persons had jobs and 65.4 percent of them worked in the Informal Urban Sector.

These 197,797 persons live in a world of violence where drugs, alcohol, manipulation, blackmail, robbery, and sexual exploitation are the daily fare.

PEA Increases Faster Than Jobs

Of the nearly 200,000 persons, more than half have only a high school education, while scarcely 10 percent have gone on to the university.

The PEA increased by 2.1 percent in 1992 while the index of employed persons dropped by 2.9 percent. In other words, the working-age population is expanding more rapidly than the supply of jobs.

At the Eastern Market, part of these persons get out their goods and wait for those still sleeping to help them meet their need to survive.

In order to avoid the high tax rates, the only thing they can do is smuggle in illegal goods and fabricate fake invoices with the help of other merchants.

Oscar Danilo has spent three of his 15 years selling eggs at the Eastern Market. He says "you pay for your experience with your own hide. Here it is the law of the jungle and we have to do everything possible to sell more cheaply."

Modesto Castaneda says he has been coming at five o'clock in the morning to sell bread for six years and agrees that "I now spend more on products because everything is more expensive. I will have to beat my brains out to lower prices."

Alba Luz, who lives in Masaya, comes to the Eastern market at five o'clock with fruit to sell. "I used to barely sell 10 oranges a day, but ever since they announced the measures, people have stopped buying from me."

While the government tries to absorb part of the unemployment generated by its economic policies by creating the Ministry of Social Action, the whirlpool here continues.

In order to *bisnear* at the Eastern Market, it is not enough to work hard. One also needs imagination, knowledge of how to get around the IGV [General Sales Tax], ability to adapt to the market, and buy and sell the right merchandise at the right time.

The Eastern Market is the display window of Managua, a factory that turns out vendors, dealers in knickknacks and illegal goods snatched from elegant stores that would make anyone stop and look.

According to economist Raul Valdivia, professor at Central American University (UCA), the new economic policies adopted by the government could cause increased smuggling as an escape valve for the high taxes on luxury products.

Valdivia revealed that last year, as the result of tax evasion, the government failed to collect over 300 million cordobas for the national economy.

The economist says, "It is impossible to change overnight the high rate of consumption of the Nicaraguan population and that consequently, the measures are insufficient. There must also be good customs control." He added that the main problem is that the economic measures have hurt the people's purchasing power even more, which has a direct effect on the "informal" merchants who must seek other means to obtain their goods at a lower cost.

How can over 300 million cordobas worth of different types of merchandise appear on the country's markets without paying a single cent in taxes?

The question seems to go unanswered, but "Dona Margarita" has the answer to the 300 million: "Well, how do you think? Smuggling!"

Before beginning his trafficking, the merchant must first round up a team to help him smuggle the illegal merchandise into the country. He will need four persons and about $30,000 for the purpose: the customs agent, customs secretary, doorkeeper, and merchandise inspector. He finds them all in the same place: customs. Each one has to act as if he were out to lunch when the goods enter the country, for it is on them that the success of the plan will depend.

First, the merchants hop a flight. Upon arriving in Panama City, they look for a hotel where they can spend the night. Before they go to sleep, they must plan the many ways of getting around the IGV.

In Nicaragua, they had already decided which route to take: overland or by plane. When the goods reach Ciudad Colon (where all Latin America buys), the operation begins.

When it is overland, "things are more difficult" because the merchant must know on what day the trucks will reach Managua customs.

It is preferable for the goods to arrive on a Friday at about 10 o'clock at night. When the vans cross the border at this time of night, no one wants to process them and they get through easily simply by filling out a form.

The four persons must be in their places when the van unloads the goods. The work begins when the vans arrive.

The customs agent inspects the goods and the product is appraised at under the actual price. The inspector notes on the papers the quantity of merchandise (the less the better) and the secretary makes the entries for the crates and products as if the trucks were at customs.

While roughly 10 helpers who are in on the deal unload the illegal goods, the other four "legalize" the entry of the product.

Everything has to be ready at 0600. The customs agent, inspector, secretary, and doorman must arrive at customs in order to file the papers as if the vans had entered the previous day.

The last step is the most dangerous one. The papers must be in order so that no one will become suspicious, and the values and number of articles must naturally conform to the space available in the vans.

On this little transaction, the big merchant spends over $40,000, but if the vans transport goods worth some $100,000, this figure doubles on the market without a single penny being paid in taxes.

Dona Margarita says that very few use this method, "only the sharks." The "big fish" have another alternative: the airport.

She recalls that three years ago, airport administrators feverishly looked for an airplane carrying over $100,000 worth of goods, but never found the merchandise or the papers.

This method is more economical and only three persons are needed: two goods inspectors at the air terminal and the doorman.

Let us assume that once in Panama, the merchant has already purchased the merchandise, which is then loaded, not into vans, but onto cargo planes.

From Ciudad Colon, the order is sent to the outskirts of the airport, which is where everyone begins to get busy. The merchant is accompanied by "clerks," who help unpack the merchandise and put it into bigger boxes in order to consolidate it.

If the merchant brings in some $20,000 worth of goods, the transfer will take over five hours. Now tired and feeling the pressure, he boards the plane that will take him home. When he arrives at the air terminal, the big fish never even sees the boxes of merchandise. He simply exits with his little suitcase full of dirty clothes!

That same night, somewhere between 0200 and 0300 in the morning, one has to return with the inspectors and a truck big enough to hold the goods. The doorman already knows the signal (about $300), and they are in and out in less than 30 minutes.

This is how more than 100,000 people cheat the Treasury, and the figure could go higher because of the tax recently placed on luxury items.

* Reliance on U.S. Politicians Criticized

93CA0102B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 10

[Commentary by Alvaro J. Cruz Rojas]

[Text] I heard a statement recently that inspired this commentary: "Many people think the capital of Nicaragua is Washington, not Managua." It is worthwhile to consider the message that this statement contains.

It must be quite annoying for the North Americans to have to put up with the constant presence of Nicaraguan politicians, who think their friends to the north have a singular magic wand that, as in the finest fairy tale, will grant their every wish.

In our country "everyone has his own gringo." From the standpoint of both personal and national pride, it is annoying and degrading to ask a friend, no matter how close that friend may be, to do what we cannot do for ourselves, or what we do not want to do.

This saying that everyone has his own gringo applies to all our country's political sectors. The parties on the right have Jesse Helms, who directed an interesting report on the national situation, which those parties have used as their battle standard, praising criticisms they did not bother to make themselves.

The government has hired an attorney, Paul Reichler, to "clean up the image" of the government, and to get the U.S. aid that is being held up in Washington released, even though the real breakthrough should come about in Managua, which is the capital of Nicaragua.

It should take place in Managua, because on the determination of our government (ours, for the majority of the Nicaraguan people elected it), depends the democratic process, and in consequence, the projected economic takeoff and full respect for freedom of expression and of thought, as well as unconditional respect for human rights in Nicaragua.

The worst case is on the left, for the left also has its Yankee. (Remember the saying "Yankee, the enemy of humanity")? Recently, I was amused to read an interview in which Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega accused the projected Truth Commission of "meddling." That is typical; they used to say the same thing about ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America], about Contadora, about the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission], and even about the pope.

Later in the same interview he railed against "interventionist gringos, accustomed to meddling in our affairs" (these are not the exact words quoted, but my recollection of them). And amusingly, after all his criticisms, he said something like: "And I am going to tell Carter," that typical childish finger-pointing phrase which only confirmed what we all know: Daniel Ortega (and the Sandinists) also have their own gringo, Jimmy Carter.

People often say: "God helps those who help themselves," and that saying should become a slogan for the Nicaraguan people, for it is embarrassing to keep on asking, and then go back asking again, without working with determination for our nation's progress.

Only we are going to be able to do anything for ourselves. Whether this country will emerge from the debacle in which Sandinism has sunk us with its principal lesson to "hold out your hand to beg" depends on ourselves. In the end that aid only lined the pockets of people in government.

Only we can provide our own liferaft in the treacherous seas of poverty and underdevelopment. The gringos and the Europeans may keep on helping us with good intentions, but the work depends on us, not on a "protective gringo" who supports us based on political affinity.

Let me conclude by emphasizing: the capital of Nicaragua is Managua, not Washington. A better land depends on our own hard work and our own sweat.

* Unemployed Workers Illegally Cross to Costa Rica

93CA0102A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
23 Mar 93 pp 1, 6

[Article by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez]

[Text] San Carlos-Los Chiles (southern border)—Historically, the residents of this border area have come and gone easily, with the natural movement of neighbors, often family members. But this movement was at times interrupted by the recent war.

The majestic San Juan River links the towns, along with some other rivers which, though smaller, still contain large volumes of water, like the Frio, Medio Queso, Melchora, and Papaturro. In recent months tens of thousands of desperate unemployed Nicaraguans have illegally crossed these rivers, seeking work in Costa Rican banana and coffee plantations.

The Nicaraguans of San Carlos boast about being the founders of a number of towns in northern Costa Rica, like Los Chiles and Upala, but now these two towns have reached and even surpassed the Nicaraguan city of San Carlos in size, population, and progress. On the Costa Rican side live many Nicaraguans or children of Nicaraguans—on this side there are very few Costa Ricans—which creates intense traffic.

In justification, some say the United States converted the Costa Rican north into a showcase so Nicaraguans would see the benefits of capitalism and oppose "Sandinist communism." There may be some truth to that, but the progress of our neighbors is due above all to the fact that, unlike Nicaragua's history of violence and destruction, they have devoted their energies to building on a foundation of peace.

In San Carlos and Papaturro the Costa Rican colon is used as the local currency. But in Los Chiles and Upala the Nicaraguan cordoba is not accepted. The exchange rate is 40 colones for one cordoba.

The executive (mayor) of the municipality of Los Chiles, Juan Luis Rojas Carmona, comments: "Traffic between the two communities, which have similar characteristics, has benefited Los Chiles. We have done well, and a number of institutions are moving in."

Rojas realizes that ecotourism, not the traditional production of basic grains and livestock, is the most important factor. He says that at least 80 foreign tourists visit Los Chiles every day. On the day we spoke with him, 200 tourists came there heading for the Cano Negro forest life refuge.

Illegal Migration

Tourists do not come from Nicaragua, but rather these Nicaraguans are a cheap, strong labor force, determined to take the worst jobs, harvesting bananas and coffee and picking beans, work that most Costa Ricans dislike.

Some pass through the immigration office at Los Chiles, which was reopened in 1987, but the majority cross illegally at various points on the 280-kilometer border, mainly through Papaturro, where Nicaragua Immigration opened a border post just a few days ago.

Norberto Herrera Arauz—a Nicaraguan who has lived in Costa Rica since he left San Carlos when he felt threatened by local Sandinists who accused him of being a Somozist—has a boarding house in Los Chiles, where he often takes in illegal immigrants, "to help them," he says.

People From Papaturro Shop in Upala

Herrera explains that Nicaraguans in Costa Rica are "appreciated" because they take the hardest jobs. He says that in some cases they are abused, and not even paid, for after working they are reported to the Immigration Service. That recently happened to a group that had picked a bean crop.

Household appliances, vehicles, basic grains, wooden furniture, clothing, and livestock are cheaper in Nicaragua; but cosmetics, sweets, packaged foods, hot meals in bars and restaurants, etc., are cheaper in Costa Rica, says Demetrio Valdivia Rayo, a member of the city council of San Carlos.

The family of Roger Miranda, coordinator of the residents of Papaturro, buys their food and clothes in Upala—one hour away by vehicle on land—because it is cheaper than buying the same things in San Carlos; however, Costa Ricans in Los Chiles find it better to buy clothing in San Carlos, 45 minutes by boat.

Tere Mariscal, a Spaniard who has lived on the San Juan River for 11 years and who works with the River Foundation, says: "There are very strong cultural ties between the people of Papaturro and the Costa Ricans; in reality, there is no border." And this also applies to the residents of San Carlos.

People on both sides of the border have no problems coming and going. The Immigration Service concentrates on foreign immigrants, especially merchants who might bring in contraband. Contributing to the easy flow of traffic between local residents are the excellent relations between Nicaraguan and Costa Rican officials, who even conduct joint operations.

Costa Rican Ecotourism in Nicaragua

The head of Immigration in Upala, Armando Velasquez Gutierrez, says that every week they catch about 180

undocumented Nicaraguans, who are returned to Nicaragua. Most of them, he adds, were heading for Las Canas and Punta Arenas, seeking jobs in banana and coffee plantations.

There are also drug trafficking problems. San Juan del Norte has become a stop in an international drug trafficking network that includes Limon in Costa Rica, San Andres on the Atlantic Ocean, and Bluefields, says a police source.

The other problem concerns Costa Rican companies that promote ecotourism, which do a lot of business transporting tourists along the San Juan River, even taking them to the interior of Nicaragua, like San Juan del Norte and the Indio and Maiz Rivers, where there have been depredations of pre-Colombian archeological artifacts and native cemeteries.

Since 1990 a number of Costa Rican companies have prospered by leading ecotours, including Sarapiqui Adventures and Isla de Pesca—along the Los Chiles-San Carlos routes; Las Tiricias-El Castillo; Boca de San Carlos-San Juan del Norte; Sarapiqui-Delta-San Juan del Norte-Barra Colorado; and Upala-Papaturro.

Some tourists, both Costa Ricans and people of other nationalities, are hunters who flush out their prey, generally deer, by setting fire to the grasslands. An incursion of hunters can result in the burning of up to 2,000 hectares, warns Leonel Ubau Hernandez, the local director of IRENA/Si-A-Paz [Institute of Natural Resources/Yes to Peace].

Panama

Comptroller Confirms Government Unable To Pay Foreign Debt

PA0205231493 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 May 93 p 14

[Report by Joaquin Maizon]

[Text] Panama's Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles has confirmed to EL SIGLO that Panama cannot pay the millions of balboas in foreign debt it owes to international private banks, while Deputy Comptroller General Jose Chen Barria reiterated that following talks in New York, a negotiation process has been initiated but Panama is still not yet eligible for credit.

Carles has pointed out that every day the debt burden increasingly gravitates toward public finances, although Panama has not yet begun to negotiate its debt with commercial banks. Attention to public services, he said, and the community's needs are the state's foremost responsibility. Without economic growth we will not be able to meet the state's needs or pay our debts, and if we do not manage our financial obligations in a serious and responsible manner we will face adverse consequences.

Therefore, the comptroller pointed out, as progress is made toward getting our internal obligations in order, we must plan how we will deal in the future with our obligations with commercial banks. We cannot pay all of our creditors concurrently, but we must find solutions using the options and resources available to us.

Nevertheless, Deputy Comptroller Chen Barria, who is a member of the Panamanian team for negotiating with foreign banks, said that Panama is not yet ready to set forth specific proposals.

"When a country has a debt as high as Panama's—I am talking about two million balboas in capital and approximately one billion balboas in interest—and when a country has a debt with the international private banks that is in the three million balboa range, it is necessary to keep abreast of the country's financial and fiscal situation," said Chen Barria.

Chen warned that channels of credit have not yet been opened to Panama and that international private banks have not extended loans to the Republic of Panama since 1986-87; he added that like other Latin American countries, Panama has not yet formalized arrangements with international banks.

In Chen Barria's opinion, the negotiation process with international banks is slow and may take several years or months, depending on whether or not the Republic of Panama is prepared to make specific proposals.

The ranking official trusts that an arrangement will soon be made through formal debt negotiations with private banks, and that the private banks will be prepared to make loans to Panama.

"I believe that at present they are not willing to lend us money. This, however, does not mean that Panama should not try to reach an agreement and once again be eligible for credit on the international market," Chen Barria underlined.

No Legal Action Planned Against Indians for Kidnapping

PA3004170593 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Juan de Dios Hernandez]

[Text] Panama City Governor Plutarco Arrocha said after he was kidnapped briefly on 28 April by Alto Bayano Indians that he believes the Indians have regained their lost confidence.

[Begin Arrocha recording] Fortunately, with the presence of the National Assembly's honorable legislators and through dialogue, we have managed to reestablish the flow of traffic; the Indian strike has ended and the vehicles the Indians were holding have been returned. This translates into a vote of confidence for the government by the Indians on the approval of a draft bill that creates the Maguegandi Indian Reserve. [end recording]

The governor also said that due to the impoverishment of the Indians no legal actions would be taken following this kidnapping.

[Begin recording] [Arrocha] The government has always remained open to dialogue. But it must also be understood that in the future we are not going to allow any type of violence.

[Hernandez] Mr. Governor, according to recent legal decisions, this means that the settlers will have to leave the land owned by the Indians?

[Arrocha] Definitely so, which does not mean that the settlers should be abandoned. We are of the opinion that a definite solution must also be sought to allow settlers to have land to cultivate. But we also want to stress that we cannot continue with the cult for pasture ground [potrero] and convert the Alto Bayano area into what the Azuero peninsula is today: total devastation, practically a desert in certain areas. [end recording]

Endara, Arias, Ford's Popularity Said To Continue 'To Deteriorate'

PA0305152493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] The popularity of the president and the two [number of published] vice presidents of the Republic has continued to deteriorate in the past four months. Although Guillermo Endara remained at a stable 12 points, Ricardo Arias Calderon suffered an important loss of eight points, and Guillermo Ford lost six points.

That is the result of an opinion poll carried out by the "Dichter and Neira" consulting firm in Panama City and the most important cities in the interior of the country between 12 and 18 April 1993. The firm interviewed 1,201 adult Panamanians, male and female, and the poll has a 3 percent margin of error.

The conclusion was that the popularity rating of President Endara's administration improved in April by 0.4 percent compared with the 11.6 percent rate he held a year ago. The improvement, however, is not significant as his administration was unable to recapture the 14 percent popularity rating it held in 1991.

Former Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon's, currently in opposition, popularity rating dropped considerably from 18.7 percent in April 1992 to 7.5 percent in April 1993. The drop could be the result of his resignation from the post of vice president in December 1992.

Furthermore, Vice President Guillermo Ford's popularity rating dropped from 24.3 percent a year ago to 18.7 percent in April 1993.

The popularity ratings of all the ministers and government institution directors dropped, with the exception of Housing Minister Guillermo Quijano and Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, whose rating increased from 22.8 percent to 26.3 percent and from 25.7 percent to 39.8 percent, respectively.

For example, Foreign Minister Julio Linares' popularity rating decreased from 18.9 percent (in 1992) to 12.8 percent in April 1993 and Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo also suffered a small drop from 23.3 percent a year ago to 19.2 percent this April.

The popularity of the work done by new Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes was also rated and 13.9 percent of the people polled called his work "good," while 49.6 percent said it was "average." National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez showed a drop from 38.2 percent to 25.7 percent in the past year.

A government official who maintained a high popularity rating was General Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena, although his rating dropped from 51.4 percent to 43.8 percent. Panama City Mayor Mayin Correa also suffered a loss from 48.6 percent to 39.9 percent.

In conclusion, the people were asked to indicate the government official they felt was doing the best job. The responses favored Comptroller Carles with 15.1 percent, Panama City Mayor Correa with 14.6 percent, and Customs Director Arosemena with 10.7 percent. Of the people polled, 18.8 percent said they had no opinion in this respect.

Poll Indicates Support for Constituent Assembly

PA3004170493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] According to an opinion poll conducted by the Dichter and Neira firm, 50.8 percent of 1,201 Panamanians from different areas of the country believe the government should convene a constituent assembly.

Of the rest of those polled, 31.7 percent disagreed, 17.2 percent did not have an opinion, and 0.4 percent did not answer.

The highest percentage in support of a constituent assembly was registered in Panama City (63.1 percent) compared to 45 percent in the rest of the country.

The poll showed that 51.5 percent of the men and 50.1 percent of the women replied affirmatively. Those with less education showed greater interest in a constituent assembly (52.3 percent) than those with more education (47.2 percent).

The results showed that the levels of opposition to the convening of a constituent assembly were similar in Panama City and the rest of the country.

When asked: "What do you think is the reason for the problem of justice?" most of those polled (40.5 percent) attributed it to flaws in the laws, 22 percent attributed it

to the Supreme Court of Justice, 17.7 percent blamed the attorney general, 10.7 percent blamed the judges, 6.1 percent blamed lawyers, and 2.8 percent did not respond.

Regarding the problem of justice, the responses blaming the problem on the laws reached a high percentage (45.7 percent) in the capital, compared to 38.1 percent in the rest of the country.

Men and women and educated and uneducated individuals held similar opinions.

The poll's margin of error was 3 percent. It was conducted 12-18 April in the cities of Panama, Colon, David, Las Tablas, Chitre, Santiago, Penonome, Chorrera, and San Miguelito.

The samples were stratified by sex, age, education level, and occupation.

Argentina

Government, Brazil Support Paraguayan Preelectoral Process

PY0105030693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2142 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM)—The governments of Argentina and Brazil today gave their support to the pre-electoral process in the Republic of Paraguay "with sympathy and attention" through a joint communique released by the two countries' foreign ministries.

The two foreign ministries explained that the links between the three countries "are the natural result of the profound friendship with the sister Republic of Paraguay."

The 9 May elections in Paraguay are "a consolidation of democracy" in that country, which represents "a very important event in the destiny of the Rio Group and Mercosur [Common Market of the South] of which Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay are members," said the joint communique released simultaneously by San Martin Palace and Itamaraty.

The joint communique is related to a coup atmosphere created by the declaration of some Paraguayan military leaders in the face of the real possibilities that the official Colorado Party may be defeated in the upcoming elections.

Both the Rio Group and Mercosur "are based on the existence of democratic political regimes founded on free and plural elections to guarantee open and democratic societies, as established by the OAS Charter."

Di Tella on Paraguayan Situation, Ambassador to U.S.

PY3004021093 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2129 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Posadas, Misiones, 29 Apr (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said here today that "democracy in Paraguay is in no danger whatsoever; it is consolidated and firm," adding that "a country that abandons democracy condemns itself to isolation."

Di Tella also confirmed that "there will be a meeting of presidents" from the two countries but only "after the general elections" in the neighboring country.

Asked by reporters about the reservations of Carlos Ortiz de Rosas, current ambassador to the United States, when he learned he will be replaced by Raul Granillo Ocampo, di Tella said the ambassador "denied having said what the newspapers published."

"He told me he made a general reference to career diplomats defending their rights, which no one objects to," di Tella added.

The minister said: "The Foreign Ministry considers that career diplomats are essential to our Foreign Service, but there is a fifth article allowing the appointment of political figures in some cases and the executive branch—in exceptional cases—can call on them to represent the country."

Di Tella stressed that for the country "what is important is if he is a good ambassador," recalling that "President Carlos Menem considered that in this new stage (in the United States with Bill Clinton as president) Granillo Ocampo can—given his political background and his full identification with the national government—represent the country very well before the new U.S. administration."

Camilion Said To Turn Down Air Force Chief's Request for Retirement

PY3004160493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1844 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion has reportedly turned down a request for retirement submitted by Brigadier General Jose Julia, Air Force chief of staff, in the wake of the controversy caused by the decision to suspend LADE [State Airlines] flights because of the budget cuts ordered by the economy ministry.

The report, which was leaked from ministry sources, originated with Julia's decision "to give way" in order to avoid impairing relations between the Air Force and the government of Carlos Menem.

The military budget cut ordered by the Economy Ministry might be on the order of 10 percent, for which reason the Air Force command decided to supend LADE flights as of 1 May, a decision that will isolate many Patagonian towns.

After a cabinet meeting last week, it was leaked that Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo considered the announcement as a pressure to prevent the Air Force budget from being reduced.

President Menem, however, made assurances that the airline, which is flown by military pilots, "will continue to operate." Meanwhile, Camilion asked Cavallo to hold a new meeting outside the cabinet to continue talking about the subject.

For such reasons Julia reportedly asked for his retirement in order to unblock the situation between the defense and the economy ministries. Camilion reportedly rejected the request on the grounds that "it is not a problem of people, but of decisions."

The Air Force is the area that has most harshly reacted during the first round of talks between the defense minister and the military and security forces, which have been held between last week and yesterday. The Border Police is the only organ that has not yet met with the minister.

Agreements Signed With Canada on Taxation, Satellites

PY3004224193 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Apr 93 p 3

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (DYN)—Canada and Argentina signed an agreement yesterday aimed at avoiding double taxation and tax evasion. The accord was signed as part of Canadian Industry, Science and Technology and International Trade Minister Michael Wilson's official visit to Argentina. Also today Telesat of Canada and Paracom of Buenos Aires signed an agreement providing for the temporary use of two Canadian satellites until the Nahuel I satellite is placed in orbit.

Bomb Attack on French Bank; No Injuries Reported

PY0105184993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1534 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 May (NA)—Two bombs went off early this morning causing damage to the facade of a branch of the French Bank located in the district of Caballito in Buenos Aires. No injuries were reported.

According to the police report, two homemade bombs exploded around 0330 local time outside the building located at 510 La Plata Avenue.

Personnel from the bomb squad, who were summoned by neighbors, went to the scene, where they found two other bombs that had not gone off and which were deactivated by experts.

The shock wave shattered many windows, both in the bank and at an adjacent shop.

Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria will investigate this case.

Economy Minister Details Economic Situation

PY3004204393 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Apr 93 p 27

[Text] Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has said that some warning lights have appeared, adding that it is necessary to increase internal savings and slow consumption.

The minister spoke at a meeting with businessmen. He stressed "the important recovery of the gross domestic product [GDP] following a decade of negative growth."

Cavallo gave precise figures on national income. He said: "The GDP dropped 10 percent in the 1980-1989 period but grew 18 percent during the 1989-1992 period, showing an important recovery in economic activity levels."

The minister did not give more details on this but predicts that in the next few years growth rates will be more rapid and vigorous than in the past.

The GDP calculated by the Central Bank is close to $226 billion. This shows that Argentines' per-capita income has climbed to nearly $7,000, by far the highest in Latin America.

The economy minister stressed other aspects of his economic program, saying: "Much more important than the GDP's growth is the outstanding growth of investments, which grew 26 percent in 1991 and 30 percent in 1992. This shows that real investment in Argentina has been growing vigorously."

Among other topics, Cavallo mentioned the following:

—"Among these positive indicators are some warning signals, one of which is increased consumption."

—"Consumption has increased much more rapidly than the GDP."

—"In 1991, consumption increased 12 percent while the GDP grew 8.9 percent. In 1992, consumption increased 10 percent while the GDP grew 8.6 percent."

—"Argentina does not have satisfactory levels of internal savings compared to the level of economic growth."

—"The rapid growth of investments and consumption, which have grown far faster than the GDP, was maintained only because of the large quantities of foreign capital entering the country."

—"We cannot design a long-term economic plan based on increased foreign capital entering the country."

—"The fight against evasion is an essential tool to force an increase in internal savings."

—"We will insist on the collection of personal income tax and autonomous workers' contributions to the social security system."

—"Argentine tax laws contemplate incentives to increase our internal savings."

—"Tax exemptions on negotiable obligations, investments profits, and profits on private and public bonds are good incentives to increase savings."

Bolivia

Paz Comments on Ex-Bolivian Dictator's Reported Escape to Chile

PY2904031293 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2340 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Based on a report issued by the Fides news agency, the Bolivian media today extensively reported that former Bolivian dictator Luis Garcia Meza has escaped to Chile. Such an important issue could not go unnoticed by government or political circles, so much so that President Jaime Paz Zamora referred to this issue.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] Government security sources reported that former President Luis Garcia Meza has escaped to Chile. [passage omitted]

Based on intelligence operations conducted by the Interior Ministry both inside Bolivian territory and abroad, it has been established that Luis Garcia Meza currently is in Chile.

President Paz Zamora believes that the dignified thing to do would be for Garcia Meza to comply with what has been established by the courts.

[Paz Zamora] In view of the type of crime for which Garcia Meza has been sentenced, I believe all the Americas would be like a permanent prison for him.

Moreover, in my capacity as president of all Bolivians, I would advise him that the reasonable thing for him to do would be to place himself at the disposal of Bolivian courts, and hand himself over in a dignified manner instead of becoming an outlaw or running the risk of being subjected to a foreign country's courts.

At any rate and in view of the prevalence of democracy throughout our continent, I believe Garcia Meza will (?not be at peace anywhere). Although I do not know how reliable these reports may be, or whether he is in Bolivia or abroad, I [words indistinct] [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Says No Request Made To Join Mercosur

PY0105131793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 93

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Text] According to a recent report datelined Asuncion, Paraguay, the executive council of the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, had rejected Bolivia's membership in this subregional organization. The Bolivian Foreign Ministry today officially stated that Bolivia has not asked to join the Mercosur in light of Article 20 of the Treaty of Asuncion signed in March 1991. This article clearly establishes that new members cannot belong to other subregional or nonregional integration organizations. Thus, it is improper to speak of a rejection of Bolivia's membership in the Mercosur.

Bolivia was invited to a Mercosur meeting in Brazil in October 1992. At this meeting, Bolivia asked to participate as an observer in some of the technical task groups.

[Begin recording] [Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean] Bolivia has never asked to become a full member of the Mercosur, keeping in mind the provisions of the Treaty of Asuncion. Therefore, it is impossible to talk about a rejection of its petition.

I would like to emphasize that in winter 1992 Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora was invited to the Mercosur presidential summit held in Las Lenas, Argentina. A declaration was issued at the initiative of Mercosur presidents. On that occasion President Paz Zamora voiced Bolivia's desire to increase its ties with the Mercosur for two basic reasons:

First, the physical integration to which the Treaty of Asuncion gives top priority; Bolivia is definitely part of the Mercosur process because it is part of the project of the waterway which flows through the very heart of Mercosur member countries.

[Exports Minister Fernando Campero] I would like to emphasize that our government is willing to continue as part of this process outlined by the five presidents, in the certainty that Bolivia can play a key role in linking the northern and southern markets of South America. This is the will expressed by the five presidents which is being duly implemented; it has nothing to do with any formal request or unilateral attempt to join the Mercosur. [end recording]

Thus two members of the executive branch refuted the report that the Mercosur has rejected Bolivia's membership.

Air Force, Antinarcotics Force Clash Over Jurisdiction

PY2904232593 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 22 Apr 93 p A15

[Text] Santa Cruz, 21 (LA RAZON)—The transportation of a small airplane—which was believed to have transported cocaine to a cattle ranch in Santa Rosa del Sara—to Santa Cruz de la Sierra has caused confrontation between the Bolivian Air Force [FAB] and the Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] over alleged jurisdiction violations.

FELCN Santa Cruz Commander Colonel Jairo Zanabria was surprised by the action of the 3d Air Force Brigade, which opposed the implementation of a narcotest at the "El Remate" cattle ranch and insisted on the transportation of the airplane to a FAB unit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Jairo Zanabria explained: "I am surprised by this attitude and I deplore the interruption of the investigations."

The FELCN commander challenged the FAB's interest in suspending the investigations and the implementation of a "narcotest" at the emergency landing site. He also claimed: "The arbitrary attitude of the 3d Air Force prevents the conclusion of the investigations because clues in the interior of the airplane were removed during the airplane's transportation."

Interior Ministry Order

General Emilio Antelo, the 3d Air Force Brigade commander, justified the Air Force's attitude, mentioning an order of the interior minister that instructed his brigade to transport all small airplanes as his brigade defends Bolivian air space.

Antelo noted: "There was no arbitrariness. We transported the aircraft because Article 208 of the Bolivian Constitution authorizes the FAB to seize any foreign aircraft that violate national air space."

Emilio Antelo said: "We do not care about the narcotest result, we care that a small airplane violated our air space and illegally created a Bolivian license plate number. I am curious about the suspiciousness of their failure to carry out the narcotest, yet they showed up precisely as we were about to transport the plane."

Narcotest

Col. Jairo Zanabria ruled out the possibility of carrying out a narcotest on the plane that was seized by the FELCN two weeks ago because the FAB officers who transported the aircraft to Santa Cruz touched the controls and removed bloodstains and fingerprints. He added: "We did not carry out a narcotest two weeks ago because the sophisticated equipment had to come from La Paz. Now it is impossible to do it because the controls were touched, thus interrupting the course of the investigations."

The 3d Air Force Brigade commander explained that his unit is not opposed to carrying out a narcotest.

Different Explanation

In a report datelined La Paz, however, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno gave a different report from that supplied by Gen. Emilio Antelo on the reasons that reportedly led to the transportation of the suspicious aircraft to Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno supported the FAB action saying that the idea was to transport the aircraft to the most appropriate location (Santa Cruz de la Sierra) in order to carry out the narcotest. Saavedra said: "The small airplane was in an inaccessible location. For this reason, we gave instructions to transport it to Santa Cruz."

Former FAB Personnel

FELCN Santa Cruz Commander Jairo Zanabria reported that two days ago the FELCN unit in Santa Cruz detained two people in this suspicious incident.

The detainees are former FAB official Eduardo Borda Balcazar, a mechanic by profession and the owner of a workshop where the damaged plane's propeller was repaired, and former FAB NCO Delmar Caldas Vargas.

Brazil

Government To Resort to GATT To Protest U.S. Trade Sanctions

PY3004231693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Brazil will resort to the GATT to protest the trade sanctions imposed by the United States. The U.S. Government also announced restrictions against India and Thailand because those countries do not have clear laws on industrial property rights.

The government announcement that Brazil will resort to GATT to protest trade sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government was announced through a press communique released in the late afternoon. The communique says that current legislation on intellectual property in Brazil is within international standards and in accordance with commitments assumed by Brazil abroad. The communique also mentions that our law on industrial property is been reformulated. The communique ends by demanding that the U.S. Government review its decision as soon as possible.

Franco Cited on Economic, Political Issues

PY3004024093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Apr 93 p 3

[Text]

Plan

President Itamar Franco has said that it took him six consecutive hours of arguments to design the final text of the speech he delivered at the 24 April cabinet meeting to announce his decision to authorize no positive rates for the overnight market.

Franco said: "I could have adopted a strong position but I didn't. The market should now reduce prices because it is now clear that there will be no freeze. If this excuse is used for increasing prices, it will be an indication of bad faith. In that case, we will mobilize society against it."

The president mentioned some surprising advice for strong market intervention that he received before designing the plan: nationalization of banks, price freezes, and even the closure of Congress. Franco noted that those ideas came from outside the government, even from some of the 27,000 letters he receives every month.

Amendment

The president announced the creation, in the immediate future, of a government commission that will coordinate the suggestions of all ministries for amending the Constitution. The commission will be chaired by Justice Minister Mauricio Correa. The president added that he will attach priority to health and security under Federal Police responsibility.

Bills

The president wants Congress to quickly approve 13 bills and two provisional measures of the economic plan announced on 24 April. He did not say whether the changes in the TR [reference interest rate] will be implemented through a provisional measure, but he noted that whatever the method, the changes will be announced today.

Privatization

Instead of continuing to support iron and steel companies, the government should concentrate on priorities designed for the third millennium, which, in the president's opinion, are health, education, environment, and science and technology.

"They said I was a nationalistic retrograde and too provincial, but I am an engineer and I received Cartesian training. I study everything before making a decision," he said, explaining why he now advocates privatization.

He gave another explanation for his behavior, although this time it was not really Cartesian: "I do not advocate privatization of the Vale do Rio Doce Company out of respect for my friend Severo Gomes, who would pull my feet at night," he jokingly said, referring to Senator Gomes, who died last year.

Franco said the company has 60 subsidiary companies and that, like in the case of Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.], the government can sell some of its shares in both enterprises without losing majority control and without having to modify existing laws.

As for the privatization of state companies in strategic areas, the president declined to give an opinion:

"I am a man of Congress. I will abide by the decision made by Congress," he said.

Iron and Steel Companies

The government spends $1 million per day on the Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company (Cosipa), which will require $1 billion for returning to financial health. The Acominas [Minas Gerais Steel Company] situation is not encouraging either: Restoring its health will cost $200 million, but its selling price will only be around $300 million. This is one of the issues the president will address today in Belo Horizonte in a conversation with Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia. The president fears that no one will dare buy the state company with such a financial deficit. In this case, the president wonders, should the government simply close the company? Franco opposed this option, recalling that Cosipa has 15,000 employees who—as he said—represent 75,000 people, figuring an average of five people per family. He suggested that the solution for auctions without buyers might be to offer up to 100 percent of the shares to foreign capital.

Parties

Despite the fact that he lamented the defeat of the parliamentary system of government, the president clearly said that, after the plebiscite, he intends to govern with "a narrower though clearer range" of parties. He added that because of the traditional splits in parties, he knows he will only have the support of groups or factions in those parties. He set, however, a rule:

"It is not enough to be a sympathizer. The support must be clear-cut or else a clear opposition stance. The position must be unequivocal."

The president said the new Progressive Party (PP), led by Federal District Governor Joaquim Roriz and Parana Governor Alvaro Dias, will hold a meeting to decide whether to support the government. He warned, however, that supporters will be welcomed but will not be guaranteed posts in the government.

"I do not know how to make retail politics," the president said.

Succession

The president downplayed the increasing coordination efforts for his succession in 1994. However, he sent a message to the most critical and boldest candidates:

"I think it's funny to hear those who speak about high inflation rates but who do not propose solutions. They should know that society wants proposals and solutions."

Government Imposes Fine on British Multinational

PY0105004393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The government has imposed a fine of nearly 4 billion cruzeiros on one of the largest multinationals, Imperial Chemical Industries [ICI], for refusing to sell pesticides to a Brazilian company.

The Economic Rights Secretariat, SDE, imposed a fine of 3.8 billion cruzeiros on the multinational ICI of Brazil, which operates in the area of fertilizers and pesticides, for violating the law on consumption relations created in March 1990. The Administrative Council for Economic Rights, CADE, ruled that the multinational, the fourth largest in the world, violated a contract when it refused to sell pesticides to the company Ceara of Parana one year and a half ago. This is the first time a fine has been imposed based on the consumption relations law since the law was promulgated in March 1990.

Jose Filho de Oliveira, legal counsel for the multinational—which is 100 percent British owned—said that the law on consumption relations was annulled after the approval of the Consumer Defense Code. He said that the multinational has still not decided if it will appeal to the courts or to the Justice Ministry.

Government To Renew Investments in Exports Processing Zones

PY3004161393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Following the first meeting of the Exports Processing Zones National Council under Itamar Franco's administration, the government has decided to resume investments in this field.

The government has decided to resume investments in the Exports Processing Zone [ZPE] projects because it believes this is an important tool for generating job opportunities.

The first meeting under Franco's administration took place yesterday and was headed by Industry and Commerce Minister Jose Eduardo Vieira, who noted that the ZPE's were regional development points as well as another tool for the country's economic growth.

Currently there are 14 ZPE's authorized to operate in the states of Amazonas, Para, Piaui, Maranhao, Ceara, Rio Grande do Norte, Pernambuco, Paraiba, Sergipe, Bahia, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Tocantins, and Rio Grande do Sul, as well as request to set up another 14 ZPE's. The ZPE's were created in 1988 to encourage productive investments, especially by foreign enterprises, thus strengthening the balance of payments, and to disseminate modern technology.

Draft Bill Creating Space Agency Viewed

PY2804153293 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The draft bill creating the Brazilian Space Agency and career plan for nearly 40,000 federal administration researchers is already in Congress for debate. According to the bill, the space agency will be under the presidency of the Republic, and will be in charge of implementing policy for the development of space activities and drafting new programs for the area.

Through the establishment of the Brazilian Space Agency, 98 new jobs commissioned by the government will be created.

* Impact of Plebiscite's 'Day After' Examined

93SM0220A Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 21 Mar 92 p 5

[Article "Allies Demand Strategy from Planalto Palace" by Eduardo Brito]

[Text] The government does not lack political coordination. On the contrary, things are going so well that not a single important vote has been lost in Congress. What is missing is a long-term, or even a medium-term, strategy. The two apparently conflicting blocs in the Itamar administration's political power base are united in this conviction: its leaders in the Congress, and the so-called Juiz de Fora Group.

"If this government does have a longer-term strategy in mind, it is limited to what is on the mind of only one man: President Itamar Franco," one of his ministers said. It is precisely because of the absence of an explicit definition that the internal disputes have become more acrimonious. Before, the confrontation appeared to be between party leaders and the Juiz de Fora Group; now, like the shootout between Ministers Mauricio Correa and Henrique Hargreaves, the dispute has exploded right inside the bloc of the president's closest advisers.

It was precisely to decide on a strategy that the justice minister thought to call a meeting with the Chamber and Senate leaders—Deputy Roberto Freire and Senator Pedro Simon—and to bring them into a four-way discussion with President Itamar Franco. It was at that point that Chief of the Presidential Secretariat Henrique Hargreaves reacted to what seemed to be an assault mounted by the political coordinators. The exchange of barbs between the two was a highlight of last week that displeased the president.

"Under the presidential system of government, when the president is a politician he himself is the government's political coordinator," Deputy Prisco Viana, former minister and former party delegation leader, pointed out. The exceptions occur with presidents who prefer to isolate themselves, as was the case with Fernando Collor at various times in his term—but certainly is not the case with Itamar Franco.

Day After

What most concerns party leaders associated with the government, like Simon, is the day after [preceding words in English], the day following the plebiscite—the results of which, by the way, should be known quickly. If the presidential system is confirmed, then at that point at least a half dozen candidacies will be automatically launched, thus changing the political landscape.

Leaders like Senator Mario Covas of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] do not share the pessimistic view that these candidates will immediately begin a festival of attacks on the administration, using it as a campaign target. On the contrary, most of the candidates have a stake in the stability of the Itamar administration, if only as a way of ensuring that next year's election takes place in a peaceful environment.

Even so, there is a consensus that the mere opening of the campaign will have an impact on the administration's legislative base. Although it has a majority now, when deputies and senators start hitching their wagons to different presidential hopefuls—which must necessarily happen, since this time, federal, state, and municipal elections will be held on the same day—may cause them to distance themselves from their alignment with the government. Depending on the proposals submitted to Congress, the government's majority will be less stable.

Coming Out Right

So far, at any rate, the approach taken by the Itamar Government in terms of its composition is working out right. Although employing the "retail" tactic, with decisions on appointments for the first and second echelons being made without apparent ties to a broader strategy, the Itamar Government has split the parties and, in

practice, isolated their natural candidates for president for the sake of forming his power base.

All the major parties—the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], PFL [Liberal Front Party], PDS [Democratic Social Party], PDT [Democratic Labor Party], PP [Popular Party], the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], and even the PT [Workers Party]—now have significant shares in the government, if not in jobs, at least in attention. In all of them, however, the big bosses are maintaining a reasonable distance, either because they do not want to commit themselves, or because they feel they are being treated like enemies. It is true that Antonio Carlos Magalhaes is the only one to have openly proclaimed his opposition, but the others have taken at least a cautious stance.

Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, for example, convinced Planalto Palace to set up a committee composed of personages dear to the PT—the National Council on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, which hopes to get 18 percent of the revenues from the IPMF [Temporary Tax on Financial Transactions], the equivalent of nearly $100 million a month. Even so, Lula defines himself as a member of the opposition, and he closed ranks with those who sought to punish Minister Luiza Erundina when she accepted a cabinet post.

Governor Leonel Brizola has never expressed unconditional support of Itamar, and recently criticized him severely, as has Mayor Paulo Maluf, who ordered the PDS delegation to vote against the fiscal adjustment plan. Maluf's instructions went unheeded by several of the party's most representative legislators, such as Senators Esperidiao Amin and Jarbas Passarinho, but he did establish a dissident posture for the PDS.

The positions taken by Orestes Quercia in the PMDB, and Tasso Jereissati in the PSDB, resemble each other. Although lending their support to the Itamar Government, in which their parties control eight ministries, they have not spared it on several occasions, when they leveled serious charges. Tasso even conveyed a threat to the president, made by grass roots factions of the *tucanos*, to withdraw support from the government—although no one really believed there would be a mass resignation by ministers such as Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jutahy Junior, and Ieda Crusius.

If it is in the PFL that the biggest split occurred—both Minister Hugo Napoleao, on leave from the party presidency, and its acting president Jose Mucio Monteiro support Itamar, while Secretary General Eraldo Tinoco (Bahia) has angrily attacked him on the floor of the Chamber—the PSB is the one that exhibits the most unity. No wonder, since although it has only 11 deputies and one senator, it has two ministers. Its president, Miguel Arraes, talks about giving Itamar a vote of confidence, but many of his colleagues are carefully avoiding committing themselves, and the party's only senator, Jose Paulo Bisol, opposed the form of the fiscal adjustment.

Second Echelon

In practice, these party splits serve the interest of the administration by ensuring it a majority in Congress. Both PFL President Jose Mucio and government leader Pedro Simon explain this as simply the result of the circumstances under which Itamar took office, i.e., solely because of a decision by the legislators. The splits occurred automatically. The fact is that it serves the interests of Planalto Palace by providing it with an appropriate base in the Chamber and the Senate while avoiding committing the president of the Republic to the party chiefs who will probably compete to succeed him.

It is a two-edged sword, however. The president of the PFL warned: "It is easier to remove the only foot that is on the inside than to jump out." There are reasons for this attitude. Secretary General Eraldo Tinoco notes that the PDS delegation is the one that has the least to gain and most to lose in the formation of the second echelon of the government: as the principal base of support for the Collor administration, it was able to win important positions in the administration despite the former president's stinginess with those who were not part of his original clique.

The composition of the second echelon also elicited warnings from the PMDB and the PSDB to the president. And it is the pivot even of the friction within the Juiz de Fora Group, although Itamar Franco himself is personally and directly responsible for the political engineering work. Minister Henrique Hargreaves—or others to whom the president occasionally delegates the task of finding replacements in certain areas—limits himself to providing Itamar with a list of positions, with information on the candidates and on those who are backing them.

It is on the basis of this information that Itamar Franco decides. The last word usually comes from him, although he may heed objections. Frequently not even the ministers in the particular field are consulted or have their requirements satisfied, as occurred in the crisis that brought down Minister of Finance Paulo Haddad. The problem for the ministers and the president's leading political allies is the absence of an explicit policy by which they might guide their actions.

Succession

Filling the remaining positions, however, is gradually ceasing to be the essential question. Increasingly, as the plebiscite approaches, it is the presidential elections that dictate changes in the party picture. Although now and then a political chief—like Tasso Jereissati, even though working on an agreement with PT followers for the vice presidential spot—may still imagine he is Itamar's candidate to succeed him, most know this will not occur.

Some of the candidates, especially Paulo Maluf and Lula, are experimenting with heavier criticism of the President. In the recently created PP, despite Governor Joaquim Roriz's support of Itamar, party President

Alvaro Dias has become one of Itamar's harshest opponents. This fight, like the others, got its start in the second echelon—Itaipu—but ends up involved in the presidential election campaign. The PP serves as an example of what tends to happen with the other parties: although one part of the delegation may remain outside the government or, following its leader, exhibit hostility toward it, the other part votes in Congress as Planalto Palace wants it to.

The problem for the ministers and government leaders centers on how long this game will continue to work as it should. For the time being, everything is fine—and they do not believe the day after [preceding words in English] the plebiscite will be as black as it has been painted. The empiricism with which the administration has acted does not guarantee, however, that this situation will continue. So, fears are focused on the long term, when the administration will be in its final months and will have to handle tough issues such as next April's recomposition. That is the month when nearly all ministers will have to step down in order to be eligible to run in the October 1994 elections.

Chile

Government To Comply With UN Embargo Against Liberia

PY3004203893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2032 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 27 Apr (EFE)—The Chilean Government on 27 April decided to comply with the UN Security Council resolution that imposes a full embargo on the shipment of weapons and military equipment to Liberia.

UN Resolution No. 788 was issued in November 1992 on the grounds that "the deteriorating situation in Liberia represents a serious threat to the world's peace and security, especially in western Africa."

The UN Security Council "is convinced that a peaceful, fair, and lasting solution to the Liberian conflict must be found."

Joint Committee on Ties With Japan Formally Established

PY2804155693 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p C5

[Japanese names as published]

[Text] The Chilean and Japanese Governments have formalized the establishment of the 21st Century Committee for the Pacific Basin [Comite Siglo XXI para la Cuenca del Pacifico] that was agreed upon by President Patricio Aylwin and Japanese authorities during the Chilean president's tour of that country in November 1992.

The Foreign Ministry reported that the committee's main goal is to probe the prospects for mid- and long-term bilateral relations within the broader context of ties between Chile and Latin America.

On the Japanese side, the following people were appointed as committee members: Ambassador Terusuke Terada, director general for Latin America and the Caribbean; Akio Hosono, dean of the International Relations Faculty of Tsukuba University; Michio Takimoto, journalist for the newspaper MAINICHI; and Shinichiro Kobayasahi, director general for international affairs at the Bank of Tokyo.

Chile appointed Ambassador Carlos Portales, Foreign Ministry foreign policy director; presidential advisor Marcelo Trivelli; Rodrigo Diaz Albonico, international law professor; Roberto de Andraca, president of the Chilean-Japanese Entrepreneurial Committee; and Eduardo Rodriguez Guarachi, Chilean ambassador to Tokyo.

Defense Equipment Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC

PY3004162593 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 25 Apr 93 p 17

[Text] An important agreement on cooperation and coproduction of defense equipment between the Chilean and PRC Armies, as well as on visits to military installations, were the most significant activities carried out by our country's military delegation, headed by Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Army commander in chief, on the fourth day of an official visit to that Asian nation.

The activities began at 0815 (PRC time) with a visit to the Missiles Research Institute, located in a Beijing suburb. During its visit the delegation received comprehensive explanations, supported by printed and video materials, about the products manufactured by this PRC industry. In addition, during a demonstration the delegation was able to become acquainted with the tactical and technical characteristics of the missiles.

Later, at 1015, the delegation went to the PRC Northern Industrial Corporation's (known under the acronym NORINCO) armored carriers plant where, after a cordial welcome was given to the Army commander in chief, the delegation participated in a demonstration of these armored carriers in order to become acquainted with their more significant characteristics. After the demonstration, in an attitude interpreted as being one of absolute confidence, the Chilean military delegation was invited to visit the plant's assembly lines.

Later, at 1200, an important agreement on military cooperation and coproduction of defense equipment was signed between NORINCO and Chile's Army Ordnance (Famae) in a special hall of the hotel compound where the delegation is staying. Present at the signing ceremony were Gen. Pinochet and NORINCO President Zhang

Junjiu. Famae Director Brigadier General Luis Iracabal Lobo, a member of the Chilean official delegation, represented Famae.

At about 1500 our country's military delegation left Beijing for the Nan Yuan airport, where it boarded a PRC Air Force airplane for a specially scheduled flight of one and a half hours to the city of Xian, located in the central part of the country, southwest of Beijing.

The delegation was met by the provincial military garrison commander, who hosted a reception banquet marked by an atmosphere of pleasant cordiality and comradeship.

Air Force Commander on Space Research, Russian Cooperation

PY3004145893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Can you imagine Chile in the race for space? Today, Chilean Air Force [FACh] Commander in Chief General Ramon Vega, in an exclusive interview with "24 Horas," outlined FACh plans for conquering space.

In a conversation with our analyst Raul Sort, Gen. Vega said that an agreement on space cooperation has been reached with Russia. He also admitted the possibility that the first Chilean astronaut might be transported into space by a Russian rocket.

There are 400 delegates from 35 countries attending the Second Space Conference of the Americas which is being held in Santiago. The conference is essential for Chile's future in space. At least, this is the opinion of Gen. Ramon Vega.

[Sort] Sir, speaking about space makes one think of rockets, satellites, astronauts. How far is Chile from having not a rocket, but a satellite, and possibly an astronaut launched with the cooperation of another country?

[Vega] We are working in those two projects. It is a slow process. Why? We have to learn to work in this new area. It is not easy, it is a new dimension, and we need it, it is our future.

[Sort] General, when do you think Chile will have its own satellite?

[Vega] We are thinking of a low cost microsatellite that would permit us to train a technical team for design and construction. It has not been easy. We have found a series of obstacles that we had not foreseen. Not only do we need the technicians, but we should also have knowledge that the Air Force does not have.

[Sort] Do you think a Chilean astronaut could ever be taken into space by a Russian rocket?

[Vega] Well, I believe the situation now is quite different from what it was some years ago. This is a great advantage. Scientific and technical exchange is not restricted by ideologies, and this is an essential point of this conference. Regional technical integration greatly favors political integration. Consequently, it would not be surprising if we coordinated with Russia or with the United States in the training of astronautics experts.

[Sort] In most developed countries, in the United States and Europe, space agencies are run by civilians. Don't you think that a space agency in Chile should also be run by civilians?

[Vega] That's a good question. Nowadays the Air Force has tremendous influence on the development of air power. For that reason we have been noticeably coordinating national efforts to promote development in this area. I believe a space agency in Chile should also have a remarkably civilian nature.

Bombs Explode in Santiago; No Casualties Reported

PY0105033393 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] On the day before Labor Day, extremist organizations detonated bombs in the subway, shot at Carabineros, and damaged a bus in Santiago.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] One block from the (Toesca) subway station, unidentified individuals exploded a Molotov cocktail in Line 2 of the Metropolitan Railway. Half an hour later, at 0800 [1200 GMT], another bomb exploded near the Neptuno station. No one was hurt in the explosions. Also there were no casualties last night when a group of terrorists shot at two Carabineros at San Pablo and Bismark streets. Also, a firebomb damaged a bus near the Recoleta bridge this morning. Manuel Rodriguez Front pamphlets were found at the explosion sites. And an anonymous telephone call from the Lautaro Group claimed responsibility for the shots at the Carabineros. These terrorist actions are taking place one day before the international Labor Day celebration. Transportation in Line 2 was interrupted for six minutes this morning. [end recording]

Colombia

Congress Hits 'Sore Spot' on U.S. Military Presence at Radar Sites

PA2904190693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] On 28 April, Congress hit a sore spot regarding U.S. troop intervention on Colombian territory under the guise, according to certain congressmen, of technical cooperation. The controversy was prompted by the presence of Marines at the sites of five radars donated by the United States, which are located in San Andres, La Guajira, Choco, and two in the Amazons. According to the initial agreement, the U.S. forces would train the Colombians and then leave the country, but they are still here. Representative Jairo Clopatosky commented on the issue:

[Begin Clopatosky recording] In reality, Congress has not ratified any international agreement for help in dealing with drug trafficking. A proposal could be presented to Congress to dismantle those military bases if they do not fulfill the requirements established in the Constitution. [end recording]

The fact is that at least twice a month U.S. Hercules airplanes loaded with huge boxes land at Leticia Airport. These boxes are taken directly to the radar sites without undergoing inspection by any Colombian. The congressmen are asking two questions today: First, if this is a simple technical agreement, why is entry to the installations banned? Second, if they came to train Colombians, why, after a year and a half, are the Americans still controlling the radars? These are questions that the defense and foreign ministers must answer at the Chamber of Representatives' second commission.

Prosecutor General Criticizes U.S. Embassy for Issuing Visas to 'Criminals'

PA0305035593 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 27 Apr 93 pp 1A, 15A

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo Ignacio de Greiff Restrepo on 26 April criticized the U.S. Embassy for issuing visas to criminals, as has happened with some Medellin Cartel members. He attributed this to the fact that they "possibly deliver detailed lists of their substantial assets."

Prosecutor General De Greiff termed as unexplicable the fact that organized crime members are able to easily obtain U.S. entry permits. He announced that he will talk with embassy officials regarding this issue.

During a discussion at Radio Cadena Nacional De Greiff Restrepo said: "We constantly hear about cases of middle class people whose greatest hope is to travel to the United States, but the U.S. Government denies them visas." De Greiff continued: "This is absolutely unfair although I admit the U.S. Embassy is sovereign and may grant a visa to whomever it wants."

"We are also sovereign and we can criticize the system," he said.

The prosecutor general recognized that cooperation exists between the two countries' governments, but it is very scarce. "Although the exchange of evidence between the United States and Colombia has not been spectacular, there have been some achievements. We have to improve this," he said.

Referring to Pablo Escobar's situation following the blows dealt against his organization, the prosecutor general said: "I would not like to sound triumphant because, even though we have dealt accurate and critical blows, authorities should not harbor illusions until victory is achieved."

Speaking about the arrest of those responsible for the bomb explosion at 93d Street in Santa Fe de Bogota, De Greiff Restrepo said it was a victory resulting from joint action conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office and security agencies.

"It clearly proved that better results are achieved when agencies do not try to copy each other or steal the show," De Greiff Restrepo emphasized.

Finance Minister Comments on Budget Deficit

PA2904155393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Interview with Finance and Public Credit Minister Rudolf Hommes by Monica Echeverry in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Echeverry] We are here with Finance and Public Credit Minister Rudolf Hommes to talk about the Colombian deficit. Minister, what formulas have you considered to overcome this deficit?
[Hommes] Well, Monica, the first thing is that the situation is not as critical as the media has reported. The court's decision represented a blow but it is manageable nevertheless. We are now cutting expenses wherever we can without causing damage and we will leave it like that until next year.

[Echeverry] What are the most feasible formulas?
[Hommes] The ones I like most are the ones in which bonds can be used to pay old debts with the national treasury. That would be the best solution. Also, various senators, particularly from agriculture and cattle regions, have suggested that we request an act of solidarity from businessmen, meaning to ask them to keep the bonds, exchange them for [word indistinct], or give them to the government to cover security expenses. We are trying to find a solution to this situation.

[Echeverry] Incredible things have been heard in this regard, for example that gasoline prices will be readjusted by mid-year. Is this true?
[Hommes] I would oppose that.

[Echeverry] This is the information we have from the finance and public credit minister. We now go back to the studios.

Prosecutor General Cited on Plan To Fight Crime

PA0105021993 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Apr 93 p 3A

[Report by Edgar Torres]

[Text] "Door to door and person to person." The motto is part of an ambitious strategy that the Prosecutor General's Office has been refining since February. The objective is to deal selectively but simultaneously with administrative corruption, illegal acquisition of wealth, extortion, escapes, and homicides.

Miguel de J. Nino, director of the Technical Investigations Group of the Prosecutor General's Office [Cuerpo

Tecnico de Investigacion de la Fiscalia—CTI] and head of the program, has stated: "Without neglecting the traditional broad investigations scope, we will tackle specific cases and work on them until they are clarified."

The strategy's underlying purpose is to humanize and improve the investigation, turning it into a true public service. The idea is to reconstruct a crime bit by bit until it is clarified and to do it in record time as often as possible.

Nino and his closest associates have only one obsession: to get in touch with any citizen who is an eyewitness to a criminal act and to stop looking for clues by mail (summons, official notes).

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, protecting witnesses and victims and directly interviewing citizens should take precedence over interrogations or juridical coercion (threatening summonses, legal sanctions, apprehension, etc).

The visible heads of the strategy are elite units expert in financial crimes and made up of accountants, economists, and data processing technicians; 27 interinstitutional teams made up of employees of the Prosecutor General's Office, Customs Department, and Tax Directorate; and 30 homicide brigades.

The National Directorate of the Prosecutor General's Office and CTI members, albeit satisfied with initial successes, are trying to correct the general idea that the only field of action of the Prosecutor General's Office's is the mafia, and Pablo Escobar and his terrorist organization in particular.

The other aspect of the project is systematized information on the work of 2,700 investigators and a rigorous assessment of the results.

According to this approach and at Prosecutor General Gustavo de Grieff's encouragement, three weeks ago Nino masterminded a severe shakeup of CTI's leadership. Nine section directors were removed, including those in Santa Fe de Bogota and Cali.

"From now on every formality, testimony, capture, procurement of free reports, raid, or visual inspection will be rigorously tabulated and entered in a software program. Results will be assessed on a monthly basis."

The progress attained on the organization of reliable teams of financial, administrative, and criminal experts began to yield results in March.

A resolution signed by De Grieff himself created the Special Central Administrative Unit of the National Tax Directorate and 26 other regional and local units. The new teams are made up of 25 professional officials, all of them accounting and tax experts.

In addition, a Financial Crimes Unit directly attached to the CTI's National Directorate and whose members are experts in illegal acquisition of wealth and administrative corruption has begun to operate regularly at the Prosecutor General's Office.

Although the kidnapping units, which will be tasked with freezing and controlling properties, among other duties, are yet to be organized, the homicide and crime brigades constitute another front that has been created.

The most recent National Council of the Judicial Police [Consejo Nacional de Policia Judicial] held last February indicated that 29,942 homicides were reported in 1992. The Public Health Ministry estimated 10 days ago that there were 68 violent deaths daily in the country during that same period.

The Prosecutor General's Office and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) can establish what percentage of that high rate corresponds to victims of the military forces and the police and what percentage corresponds to civilians, rebels, and, in the future, acknowledged terrorists. A report prepared by the DAS analyzing guerrilla activities from 1988 to 1992 attributes the murder of 540 civilians and 593 noncivilian personnel to the rebels.

There are no consolidated figures on the victims of narcoterrorism, nor are there figures on the victims of extermination groups or common crime gangs. The country has no reliable statistics on the number of unsolved crimes.

This dramatic situation led the National Council of the Judicial Police, chaired by the prosecutor general and made up of National Police Commander General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla and DAS Director Fernando Britto, to order the creation of the homicide brigade.

An elite unit of the Prosecutor General's Office CTI, these brigades will have three technicians, one expert, and six investigators who will be at the orders of a prosecutor in the field.

The goal is to create two brigades by division and assign a previously chosen case to each one. The challenge is to clarify, if possible, a crime in a record time of 15 days working 24 hours a day.

"That is just the beginning," Nino warned. "The daily crime rate substantially exceeds the operational capacity of the DAS, Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate, and the CTI. "However," he explained, "if we choose the right case each time and take it all the way down the line, we could be headed toward eliminating various areas of violence." The Prosecutor General's Office firmly believes that facing key crime factors is viable. "If you know the high rate of homicides stems from the high consumption of alcohol, it is possible to plan minimum regulations on this front," the CTI adviser said.

The idea of a prosecutor in the field is also a variable in the new concepts. Nine men, including experts, investigators and technicians with a knowledge of forensic

medicine can yield excellent results if the prosecutor is directly and exclusively in charge of the case and he puts two and two together to resolve it.

Militia Leader's Capture Termed 'Harshest Blow' Against ELN

PA2804193693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 apr 93 pp 1a,8a

[Text] The arrest of Martin Julio Restrepo Arango, 50, alias "El Maestro", alias "El Viejo", was labelled by security institutions as one of the harshest blows dealt against the Army of National Liberation (ELN). Restrepo Arango was under the direct orders of [ELN leader] Father Manuel Perez.

"El Maestro" was captured on 21 April at a residence on 70th Avenue and 24th Street, in southwestern Medellin, after being followed for several weeks by Administrative Department of Security (DAS) officers. The DAS had used information supplied by ELN deserters in Antioquia.

DAS spokesmen said they had been alerted by deserters of guerrilla chief Restrepo's presence in the Antioquian capital. Restrepo was in charge of the regional front Fernando Giraldo Builes (ELN's northwestern war front) and in charge of America Libre, a peoples militia in the Medellin suburbs and other Valle de Aburra municipalities.

Caught by surprise, the criminal surrendered without putting up any resistance. At the time of his arrest, the following was confiscated: three 38 caliber revolvers; primers; several meters of slow burning fuse; a large book collection, in which political and military works stand out; and a picture in which Restrepo is dressed as a guerrilla. In addition there were several videocassettes, which were not released, on which Father Perez appears giving out orders and a large group of young persons between 15 and 20 are dressed in military garb and honor "Gabino" [Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista] and "Poliarco" [Manuel Perez].

According to the documents confiscated by the DAS, in the ELN military and ideological structure, after the guerrilla group's top brass, Evelio Loaiza Munoz, alias Roman, appears as head of the northwestern front, followed by Restrepo Arango at the head of the Medellin militias and as director of the "monstrous plan" that approximately 200 youngsters carry out directly. These youngsters belong to several urban commandos in Valle de Aburra.

According to the DAS, the criminal file on "El Maestro," Restrepo appears as the mastermind behind kidnappings, homicides, extortions, theft of war supplies and explosive material, bank assaults, and other crimes committed by the terrorist organization.

In his first statements to the authorities, Restrepo admitted it was his responsibility to acquire weapons, supplies to manufacture explosive devices, and other war material. To achieve this, youngsters were used. If they were successful in their mission, they passed their "exam to join the militias," the source confirmed.

Restrepo was born on 21 February 1943 in Marmato (Caldas). Between 1968 and 1984 he was the president of the Antioquia Department's Labor Union for several periods. He took advantage of his stay in the labor organization to travel to Nicaragua. There he made contact with the recently organized Sandinist movement to foster an international campaign that would contribute to the fall of the Anastasio Somoza regime and the rise to power of the rebel Sandinist group.

During this same period, as labor leader, Restrepo met with guerrilla heads Luis Carlos Cardenas Arbelaez and with Ernesto Gonzalez. It was Gonzalez who recruited "El Viejo" to the banished ELN, the sources said.

While underground, he was known as "Hernan Toro." After several years in the ELN rural front, Restrepo was transferred to Medellin to recruit young persons (men and women) and to structure the militias "similar to the Nicaraguan militias," official spokesmen said.

Restrepo was placed under the custody of the Regional Prosecutor's Office. He is wanted for terrorism, kidnapping, homicide, and extortion.

ELN Leader Captured in Barrancabermeja

PA0105212693 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The Army's 5th Brigade has arrested Pedro Jose Chaparro Sanchez alias Pastorcito, president of the Workers Trade Union [USO] refinery branch in Santander Department. Chaparro has been charged with leadership of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] Yariquie Resistance Team. According to Major General Harold Bedoya Pizarro, commander of the Army's 2d Division, the arrest was ordered by the regional prosecutor's office.

[Begin Bedoya recording] He was captured in the city of Barrancabermeja by 5th Brigade troops on orders from the prosecutor's office, which had issued an arrest warrant for Pedro Jose Chaparro alias Pastorcito, citizen identification card number 13882622 of Barrancabermeja, charging him with leadership of the ELN's Yariquie Resistance Team, which has been perpetrating crimes and terrorist acts at the oil port.

The alleged criminal is president of the USO in Barrancabermeja and is one of the ELN members to have infiltrated the USO. [end recording]

Maj. Gen. Bedoya indicated that Pedro Chaparro had been caught by surprise in Barrancabermeja on 11 February, the day that a car bomb exploded. He was armed and strewing tacks in the streets of the port city, thereby hindering public order and blocking traffic. The general

added that security has been stepped up at the port on 1 May to forestall reactions that may result from the arrest.

ELN Guerrillas Reportedly Destroy Oil Field

PA0305002193 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Bogota—Army of National Liberation [ELN] guerrillas destroyed a Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] oil field in Sucre Department, stole exploratory equipment, and kidnapped three engineers employed by the state firm.

Police authorities have announced that 60 guerrillas raided the exploratory complex in Travesia, Sucre Municipality and proceeded to assemble workers and engineers, burn housing and warehouse facilities, and dynamite several Ecopetrol vehicles. The insurgents stole the oil field's communications system and geological equipment worth 150 million pesos.

Before fleeing the area, the guerrillas kidnapped engineers Miguel Armenta, Alfonso Forero, and Alvaro Hernandez. The authorities are unaware of the engineers' whereabouts.

Ecuador

Cuenca River Drainage Channel Bursts; Mendes Canton in Red Alert

PA0205151793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 May 93

[Report by Napoleon Plaza]

[Text] The Cuenca River drainage channel has burst. The waters are currently moving steadily at 3,000 cubic meters per second, but the water reached a rate as high as 8,000 cubic meters per second several times during the morning of 1 May.

The massive burst flooded the Paute Valley area and several towns near the river, including Paute Canton, El Cabo, and other communities that are currently under water.

The river turned into a gigantic waterway and people are very alarmed about the situation. The 6-meter wide drainage channel opened at the dam site is now approximately 60 meters wide. A helicopter landing pad built high above the dam has disappeared under water. The turbulent Paute River has also swept away several fire trucks, which were sent to Cuenca to carry out a hydraulic cleaning job.

Additionally, the massive burst has not allowed the Gualaseo River to empty into the Paute River. Consequently a large water backup has formed, and several houses in the Gualaseo canton are also under water.

The massive flooding of the river drainage canal has caused tremendous damage. The Paute River bridge joining Josefina with Gualaseo has disappeared. The bridge joining Paute with a road leading to San Pablo school has also disappeared.

Water is reaching the Paute Hydroelectric Central Plant at a rate of 6,000 cubic meters per second. It is important to emphasize that the Paute hydroelectric plant was completely shut down as a precautionary measure approximately two hours ago. The water current entering the Paute hydroelectric plant is running at a rate of 6,000 cubic meters per second. The Paute hydroelectric drainage current, however, is currently stable; only 3,000 cubic meters per second.

It is true that the water level has dropped. It is believed to have decreased approximately three meters in flooded areas such as Cayoabamba in Cuenca and Chuquitapa. Many people in the area are happy about that, but they are also very sad about the situation in the lower part of the dam.

We want to report that there is a red alert for Mendes Canton. We call all its residents who live close to the river to abandon their homes and move to higher areas in the canton. We repeat: We call Mendes Canton residents to evacuate the area as soon as possible.

Water is reaching Amaluza Dam at a rate of 6,000 cubic meters per second. We will continue to report on the Paute River situation. People are truly amazed about the Paute River. It used to have a current of only 15 to 20 meters per second, but on 1 May it reached a rate of 8,000 cubic meters per second. It is currently stable at 3,000 cubic meters per second.

President: Government To Be Forced To Make Economic Shift Due to Crisis

PA0205200793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen said his government will be forced to make a complete economic shift due to the crisis in the country. In the following days, the president will meet with his cabinet to discuss modifications to the government's economic program. On 29 April, the president gave a dramatic description of the situation in the south and called it a national emergency. Francisco Sanchez gives us more details:

[Begin recording] [Sanchez] After meeting with the authorities of coastal Manabi Province, President Sixto Duran-Ballen called citizens to weigh the magnitude of the disaster in the southern Paute region. The tragedy could cause a 70-percent drop in the country's power generation and two cities to disappear under water.

[Duran-Ballen] Properties, houses, factories, and crops have disappeared. At El Descanso—some of you must have visited the area where the Pan-American highway cuts off to the east—the water level is over the bridge, which many of you may have crossed, and reaches a height of 35 meters. I mention well-known areas for easy

reference. We still do not know what will happen when the water starts to drain. We are in nature's hands. We know that two communities could be negatively affected and that the Paute power plant, which produces 70 percent of the country's electricity, is currently negatively affected. Thus not only will the province, the sugar cane area, and the Azuay region be negatively affected, but we will all suffer the consequences because the power network is interconnected.

My statements refer to comments, suggestions, and claims made by politicians. I assure you that I want to serve Manabi with all my previous enthusiasm and determination. Please understand, however, that the country is going through a crisis that will probably prompt drastic changes in all government programs. I have called a cabinet meeting specifically to discuss the emergency situation and its impact on the country.

Although the event occurred in an area between Azuay and Canar Provinces, it is a national catastrophe and will probably have stronger repercussions on the country's development than the 1987 oil pipeline interruption caused by the earthquake in eastern Ecuador. [end recording]

Duran-Ballen Confirms Appointment of New Social Welfare Minister

PA2804135793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen confirmed the appointment of Gustavo Novoa Bejarano as the new social welfare minister. Novoa Bejarano replaces Mariana Argudo, who recently resigned. Novoa is from Guayaquil and is rector of that city's Catholic University.

Duran-Ballen says the government will cut back on the operational expenditures of social security and channel those resources to the organization's members.

Government Terms Visit by Brazilian Foreign Minister as 'Major Development'

PA3004044793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso began on 29 April a four-day visit to Ecuador, which the Quito government described as a major development. Bilateral participation in the Amazon Cooperation Agreement, and the possible support Brazil will give to the candidacy of former president Rodrigo Borja for the post of OAS secretary general, are among the aspects included in the agenda of the visit.

Reports from Brasilia indicated that the former border dispute between Ecuador and Peru will be another topic to be analyzed, a topic in which Brazil is involved as one of the guarantors of the border agreement reached between the two countries in 1942.

The visit constitutes a major development in strengthening relations between our peoples not just to improve the conditions of our communities but also to consolidate a truly new order at the service of the world, an official communique stated. It added that nations are facing dangers that do not just stem from material underdevelopment, constituting a true peril to world security. Our states must adopt attitudes in line with new reality and not just warn but also create the possibility of preventing those problems. That is why we welcome the visit by the Brazilian foreign minister, the communique stated.

Paraguay

Presidential Candidates Meet With Argentina's Menem

PY3004211693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 30 Apr 93 p 10

[Article by "special correspondents" Julian Galarza and Coco Benitez]

[Text] Domingo Laino and Guillermo Caballero Vargas, presidential candidates for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) and the National Encounter Alliance, respectively, met separately yesterday with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem in Posadas, an Argentine border city.

President Menem met with Laino first, and the issues discussed were related to the Pilcomayo River conflict that created a mini-crisis in bilateral relations and the controversial statistics tax that is obstructing Paraguayan-Argentine trade.

According to Laino, the Argentine president promised to unlock bilateral trade through the reduction of the statistics tax from 10 to 3 percent for 70 exportable Paraguayan products.

Regarding the Pilcomayo River conflict, Laino explained to Menem his party's and the country's concern about the situation created by the deviation of the river's bed by Argentina, which is taking almost all the water to Argentine territory.

Laino also said this conflict concerns all Paraguayans and is not just an electoral campaign issue.

Laino also expressed his decision to discuss this issue in detail if he becomes president.

The Paraguayan democratization process also was discussed, and in this regard President Menem expressed his complete support for strengthening democracy in all Southern Cone countries.

President Menem then met Guillermo Caballero Vargas to discuss bilateral matters such as the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

Caballero Vargas also spoke about the need for finding a final solution to the Pilcomayo River conflict.

Menem reiterated the Argentine Government's goodwill to find a quick solution to the problem right after the new government is installed in our country.

Menem reiterated his complete support for our country's democratic process and his desire that the elections be held within the framework of respect for the Constitution.

Caballero Vargas' visit is part of his contacts with foreign leaders to request their solidarity with the Paraguayan democratic process.

Caballero Vargas already has held meetings with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, Brazilian Foreign Minister Henrique Cardoso, and Pope John Paul II.

Presidential Hopefuls Sign 'Democratic Coexistence Pact'

PY3004182193 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 1540 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Text" of Coexistence Pact read by unidentified announcer; it was signed by presidential hopefuls Guillermo Caballero Vargas of the National Encounter, EN, Juan Carlos Wasmosy of the Colorado Party, ANR, and Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, at the OAS office in Asuncion—live]

[Text] On 30 April 1993 in Asuncion, capital of the republic of Paraguay, seeking to guarantee and strengthen the democratic process, the candidates for the Presidency of the Republic Juan Carlos Wasmosy for the ANR, Domingo Laino for the PLRA, Guillermo Caballero Vargas of the EN, have signed this democratic coexistence pact, objective of which is to contribute to the clear, free, and legitimate development of the general elections of 9 May. The undersigned hereby agree to:

1. Promote the free and appropriate participation of the citizenry in the elections and to respect the electoral rules currently in force;

2. Promote a democratic coexistence based on mutual respect and cooperation among the protagonist of the electoral process in order to overcome possible difficulties that may surface during this process;

3. Urge electoral authorities, at national, district, and balloting station level, to fulfill the established electoral norms and procedures so that the elections may develop within a clear and legal framework that will guarantee the respect for the peoples' will;

4. Reject any attempt to disturb or interrupt the normal and correct development of the elections at any of [illegible] stages;

5. Respect the peoples' will expressed in a clear, free, and democratic manner during the 9 May elections;

6. Deliver a copy of this pact, during a public ceremony, to the OAS mission of observers to the elections.

Signed: Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Domingo Laino, and Guillermo Caballero Vargas.

Authentic Radical Liberal Party Closes Electoral Campaign

PY0105153293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 1 May 93 p 2

[Text] The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PRLA] last night closed its electoral campaign with a multitudinous rally at the square in front of Congress. A large crowd of people acclaimed PRLA presidential hopeful Domingo Laino, who started his address by saying that he is a candidate who is not tied to sectorial and selfish economic interests and that his hands are untarnished and free to undertake the construction of a society for all Paraguayan citizens.

A very colorful ceremony enhanced by fireworks gave a festive atmosphere to the closing act in which several other PLRA candidates spoke, such as Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, Carlos Alberto Gonzalez, Luis Alberto Wagner, Miguel Abdon, Hermes Rafael Saguier, and Martin Sannemann, among others. Luis Alfonso Resck, senatorial candidate for the Democratic and Social Coalition, also addressed the crowd.

Of all the speeches, the one receiving the most applause was by Hermes Saguier, who harshly referred to General Lino Oviedo [1st Corps commander], saying that he is ridiculous, a clown, and a liar.

Laino was loudly acclaimed with thousands of blue flags as he went to the podium carrying a Paraguayan flag and accompanied by his wife, Rafaela Guanes.

Laino reiterated his proposal to promote a national unity government. Most of his speech referred to the fact that the time has come for the reconciliaton of all Paraguayans and that he is not motivated by any desire for revenge or by hatred. In referring to civilian and military Colorado Party supporters, he said that those who follow the line of thought of Blas Garay [the late Colorado ideologist] will be part of his government and added that the Colorado people will not end in the trash can as other candidates preach.

Laino, however, warned the militarymen that they will not be able to build anything without political parties, although he then went on to point out that civilians cannot build democracy without the military.

Laino said that 3 February was not the result of a military coup, but the effort of brave Paraguayans who fought for freedom. However, he said that widespread corruption must be eliminated but this will start on 15 August.

National Encounter Withdraws Protection Petition

PY3004221493 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 30 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] "My intention was far from trying to limit, censor, or restrict the press. We have suffered enough in the past from the lack of press freedom and we are not going to be the one to even try to muzzle the press," said Luis Manuel Andrada Nogues in justifying his request to the judge for the withdrawal of the petition for protection submitted against Alfredo Luis Lacasa, who is thought to be the individual who prepared and released a slander campaign against the National Encounter Alliance on a television station.

Andrada added: "We prefer that freedom of the press in Paraguay be protected despite all the risks this may represent. And now that we are finishing our electoral campaign with all these fairy tales and slander, we are going to take that risk without restricting the work of the press from any point of view."

Asked about this new rectification in addition to the publicly admitted mistake about the manipulation of the pope's image, Andrada said: "This is only the result of our effort and enthusiasm in our electoral campaign. This does not mean that the National Encounter is disconcerted or lacks leadership."

Three Political Groups Disqualified From 9 May Elections

PY0105170893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 1 May 93 p 7

[Text] Several political groups will be unable to participate in the 9 May general elections.

The following is the list of political groups banned by the Central Electoral Court, thus endorsing the decision of the Asuncion Electoral Court: the Progressive Social Movement, with its presidential candidate Leandro Prieto Yegros; the Broad National Participation Movement headed by Joel Atilio Cazal; and the 26 May Independent Movement, headed by Juan Farina, with a list of candidates to the chamber of deputies for Asuncion.

According to the Central Electoral Court, these parties lack legal status and are not qualified to conduct any activities other than those described in Article No. 21 of the Electoral Code.

Consequently, the aforementioned political groups are not qualified to participate in the elections for the highest country authorities.

Article Views General Oviedo's Remarks

PY3004203593 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Apr 93 p 10

[Article by Caballero Carriozosa]

[Text] One is at a loss for the exact words that might accurately depict what one feels when reading General Lino Cesar Oviedo's statement. By reading between the lines, one can catch a glimpse of a disturbing attitude. One seems to be living a nightmare, such as those that make children wake up and weep bitter tears. "Like it or not, no matter who it bothers, and for all people may yell." This is the typical image of the fascist who wants to impose his will on others for "ever and ever." No government can wield power forever. Nor are we a bunch of idiots that will remain as quiet as a mouse while his "co-government" requests indefinite extra time until it can achieve the "welfare" of the nation, which is interpreted in such a special way that it becomes devoid of meaning.

At another point in his statement, Gen. Oviedo also speaks about the glorious Colorado Party. And yet the Colorado Party proved itself to be glorious when the Constituent Assembly—in which the Colorado Party had an overall majority—banned the military, such as Gen. Oviedo, from meddling in party politics. The Colorado Party will be glorious once it extricates itself from military tutelage and respects the idea of having institutional and professional Armed Forces. By sticking together in an alliance that still persists due to the sheer inertia of some, they only harm each other. Now, if Gen. Oviedo wants to embark on a political career, he must first file a request for retirement and then mount the rostrum (and not a tank) to try to convince Paraguayans that there is no better option open to them than himself. Nobody is going to prevent him from doing so because in a civilized society nobody can claim to be the owner of somebody else's conscience.

To conclude, Gen. Oviedo mentions the fact of having "eggs," which among males is not very original. We all have testicles. The problem lies in what we do with them. Do we raise people's hopes or, on the contrary, engender strife among people? Moreover, courage, perseverance, and strength cannot be said to be exclusively male attributes. Paraguayan women are a well of courage, dignity, and labor for the Paraguayan nation and no "insignificant-looking male chauvinistic pig" can fail to give credit where it is due.

Soldiers have always held everything related to their "homeland" in the greatest respect. To serve one's homeland is a very common expression among Armed Forces members. Gen. Oviedo's remarks, however, can only lead people to discard the true meaning of patriotism or, in other words, loyalty to our nation and to our heritage as members of a community that will always be greater than a political party.

Peru

Government Formalizes Reinstatement Into Rio Group

PY2904154993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p A20

[Text] Peru has formalized its reinstatement into the Rio Group (G-Rio), thus responding positively to the recent

decision adopted by the foreign ministers of the Permanent Mechanism of Political Consultation and Coordination [Mecanismo Permanente de Consulta y Concertacion Politica] of that organization, which approved the reinstatement of our country into the activities of that group.

The Peruvian Government decision was extended yesterday through a diplomatic note addressed by Peruvian Foreign Minister and President of the Council of Ministers Oscar de la Puente Raygada to his Chilean Counterpart Enrique Silva Cimma, in which he conveys to Silva Cimma the Peruvian officials' high appreciation for the decision adopted by that organization on 5 and 6 April 1993.

In the note, De la Puente states the Peruvian decision "to participate fully in that important forum of regional consultation and coordination."

The diplomatic note is in answer to the note extended last week by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma in his role as secretary pro tempore of the Rio Group, in which he officially announced the decision adopted at the meeting of foreign ministers held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

Peru was separated from the Rio Group as a result of President Alberto Fujimori's self-coup on 5 April last year.

This decision was adopted as a form of pressure by member countries of that regional organization, although in general terms it was different from the pressures imposed by the OAS.

The countries participating in that meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra were Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Delegates from El Salvador and Jamaica also attended the meeting, representing Central America and the Caribbean. The toughest position was that held by Venezuela, which so far maintains suspended relations with Peru.

Draft Constitution Restricts State Business Activity

PY2904232393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 5

[Excerpts] The state's business activity has been restricted to a maximum by the articles of the new draft constitution approved yesterday by the Congressional Constitutional Commission, which excluded all references to "planning" in the chapter related to economic policy.

According to the approved articles, only through the authorization of a specific law, with the vote of an absolute majority, will the state be able to engage in direct or indirect business activities, for reasons of top public interest or manifest national convenience.

The articles state that there is no legal monopoly, and that the state will fight the abuse of dominant positions in the market, as well as practices that restrict free competition.

In defense of national production, the state will be able to adopt protection measures when other countries adopt protectionist or discriminatory measures that harm national interests. [passage omitted]

Henry Pease (MDI) [Democratic Left Movement], Lourdes Flores Nano (PPC) [Popular Christian Party], and Roger Caceres Velasquez (FNTC) [Workers and Peasants National Front], supported on this occasion by Carlos Ferrero Costa (NM-C.9) [New Majority-Change 90], stressed the importance of planning to achieve consensus projects and work for the future.

Ferrero Costa said economic planning is also "a way of engaging in politics," rejecting reports that it is a mechanism proper to communist regimes. He thus was replying to Chirinos Soto, who had said a little earlier that planning was used by dictatorial regimes, causing the failures that are known today.

During the night session, the Constitutional Commission resumed debate on the chapter referring to natural resources, approving two articles.

CCD Approves Economic, Tax, Budget Reforms

PA2904180993 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] On 28 April, the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] approved the first constitutional reform articles pertaining to the economic, tax, and budget systems. One of the articles states that at the latest on 15 September of every year, the president of the Republic must send the annual budget bill to Congress. In the 1979 Constitution the deadline was August. The article states that each cabinet minister must defend his ministry's bill of expenses and the Supreme Court's chief justice must do the same with the Judicial Branch's budget, unlike the past practice of having the general budget approved by the Economy Ministry and the two houses of Congress.

The article also stipulates that the annual debt bill and financial balance bill should be sent to Congress with the annual budget bill. Likewise, the budget cannot be approved without an allotment for payment of the public debt service. The article explains that tax laws and arrangements required to obtain state income must be approved separately prior to approval of the budget law.

The Constitution Commission's session on 28 April was headed by Commission Vice President Enrique Chirinos because Commission President Carlos Torres y Torres Lara is attending a meeting in Washington. Congresswoman Lourdes Flores is a guest at the meeting in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Chirinos] This morning we reestablished the budget debate. The budget law was being cooked behind closed doors by the bicameral commission, whether or not the economy and finance minister was present. We have now decided that the economy and finance minister must go before the congressional plenum to defend his budget bill.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you guarantee that in the immediate future there will be a balanced budget, unlike other occasions?

[Chirinos] Yes. We are trying to do that. Acting on an initiative that I set forth, Central Bank and National Bank loans cannot be entered as income the way past governments did. We have also decided that foreign loans cannot be used for regular expenses. [end recording]

Superintendency of Banks Said To Order Dissolution of CLAE

PA0205131293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] According to Armando Lengua, defense attorney for Carlos Manrique, director of the Latin American Center of Entrepreneur Advisory [Centro Latino Americano de Asesoria Empresarial—CLAE], the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance has reportedly ordered the dissolution of the CLAE and the liquidation of its assets. Manrique was appearing before the court for the second consecutive day. Carlos Manrique and his attorneys, headed by Armando Lengua, appeared at the federal court for a second day of inquiries. The Fifth Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Raquel Diaz, has indicted Manrique on charges of collecting funds without due authorization. Manrique then went to a city hotel where he held a long meeting with the CLAE board of directors and legal advisers to assess the day's events and plan future actions. A large number of reporters gathered at the hotel to wait for an expected news conference, which finally took place at 1320 but with the presence of Attorney Lengua only. Lengua reaffirmed that there are interests seeking to harm CLAE and its owner.

[Begin Lengua recording] The Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, although it has stated that it expects to audit CLAE to learn of its economic and financial situation, has decided to condemn it to death by declaring the corporation's dissolution and the liquidation of its assets. It has also decided to present this case to the Supreme Court of Justice and press charges against the whole CLAE board of directors. Say what they may, this case has been handled in such a way that it is directed at damaging Carlos Manrique's image, which make no sense whatsoever. [end recording]

A group of CLAE account holders arrived at the Sheraton Hotel, where the CLAE chairman of the board and several board members held a meeting. The came to offer their support and solidarity for the corporation, which was audited by the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance.

[Unidentified account holder] We will hold a meeting and a demonstration on 4 May at 1700 at San Martin Square. That is what we need to do. [end recording]

Fujimori Comments

PA0205125393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Commenting on the intervention at the Latin American Center of Entrepreneur Advisory, President Alberto Fujimori said the purpose of the move is to locate $200 million that is said to back the savings account holders' money.

The president made the statement after returning from Iquitos, where he inaugurated the expansion of that city's thermal plant.

Court Orders Case of Missing People Investigated

PY2904144593 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The Military Supreme Court on 16 April ordered a pre-trial inquest against the officers and military personnel allegedly involved in the disappearance of nine students and a professor from a La Cantuta university.

The pre-trial inquest was ordered after the Army General Command charged the personnel involved with crimes against the physical integrity of the missing people.

It has been reported that the disappearance of Professor Hugo Munoz and nine students of the Enrique Guzman y Valle National University from La Cantuta District is already under investigation. These people have been missing since 18 July 1992.

A military court spokesman has said that the pre-trial inquest was ordered in keeping with the unrestricted respect for human rights.

Roger Caceres Velasquez, coordinator of the Democratic Constituent Congress Human Rights Committee, has voiced satisfaction with the decision of the military court because it contributes to strengthening the democratic system and respect for human beings.

He said: This decision proves that those responsible for the crime that is being investigated will be severely punished.

Caceres also stated that the special committee investigating the case will go to the La Cantuta university campus to gather students' testimonies and to analyze the way the incident occurred early on the morning of 18 July 1992.

Fish Meal Sold to PRC

PY2904133393 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] For the first time government officials and private fishing industry entrepreneurs have joined efforts and have been able to sell—without intermediaries—120,000 tonnes of fish meal to the PRC. The deal is worth $40 million.

Fishing Minister Jaime Sobero Taira and Peruvian entrepreneur Salomon Manzur Salgado, president of the "Fish Meal Exporter Organization," which represents 80 percent of all world fish meal producers, stressed the importance of the deal.

Minister Sobero and Manzur, who headed a trade mission that returned from the PRC recently, said that the country's trade links with the PRC have been strengthened.

Sobero said Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade, offered Peru a large warehouse in a local free trade zone for the storage of Peruvian fish meal, in order to maintain the product in good condition.

The minister said that Chinese authorities have reiterated their interest in purchasing Pesca-Peru [State Fish Meal and Fish Oil Production Agency] assets, particularly operating factories, and that they will send a trade mission to Peru to that effect.

Venezuela

Commission Report Charges Perez With Embezzling Public Funds

PA3004172593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1542 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Caracas, 30 Apr (EFE)—A Chamber of Deputies Comptroller General's Commission report issued on 30 April charges Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez with embezzling public funds.

According to this report, the commission investigated the whereabouts of 250 million bolivares taken from an Interior Affairs Ministry secret fund, which were then exchanged for U.S. dollars under a preferential rate and sold in the open currency market.

The 250 million bolivares exchanged for dollars under the preferential exchange rate of 14.50 bolivares per dollar became $17 million, which increased when sold on the free exchange market at 43.50 bolivares per dollar. According to Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar Salom, this could be considered a "speculative" crime.

According to the investigation and testimony, the Comptroller General's Commission was able to determine that "there are indications that President Perez and three former ministers are administratively responsible."

The former ministers accused in the report are Reynaldo Figueredo, Secretariat of the Presidency; Alejandro Izaguirre, Interior Affairs Ministry; and Egle Iturbe, Finance Ministry. They held these posts during Perez' first two years in office.

According to the report, no budgetary regulations or foreign exchange rules were violated in the preferential rate dollar exchange deal.

The case involving the 250 million bolivares was reported by journalist Jose Vicente Rangel; the attorney general then requested the Supreme Court of Justice to open a trial against the president.

Perez and the former ministers admitted buying dollars at the preferential exchange rate, but have refused to reveal what these funds were used for because of the "secrecy" of the fund.

The Venezuelan Constitution specifies that secret funds belonging to the Interior Affairs Ministry must only be used to cover defense and security expenditures.

The complainants claim that the exchange to dollars and then to bolivares of such an amount of money was done to cancel expenses incurred in Perez' lavish swearing-in ceremony in February 1989.

The Comptrollers' Office Commission's report will be discussed by the Chamber of Deputies, and if approved, it could mean President Perez and the three former minister will stand trial.

Perez To Brief Presidential Candidates on Public Administration Status

PA2904132793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez stated he will meet with the various presidential candidates to brief them on the present status of the public administration so they will know exactly what is being done and what is occurring in the country. He feels it is his duty to make the transition from one government to another as smooth as possible.

[Begin Perez recording] This is not a request from a presidential candidate; it is the government's decision to provide all candidates with information on the conditions prevailing in the public administration so they can wage a more effective campaign and be aware of what is being done and what is occurring in the country. [end recording]

Governor, Minister Resign To Enter Political Race

PA0105045293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Federal District Governor Antonio Ledezma on 30 April placed his post at President Carlos Andres

Perez' disposal to rejoin political activity. Governor Ledezma confirmed his resignation after presenting what he described as his last report to the head of state. Ledezma said he is pleased with his accomplishments despite the his short tenure.

[Begin Ledezma recording] It was a gigantic test because I took over the governor's office with a budget deficit of about 4 billion bolivares, a mountain of salary increase demands, and demands for more collective bargaining agreements. Furthermore, I faced no more nor less than two coup d'etat attempts and a string of demonstrations. Those were the issues that worried me the most from a spiritual standpoint because they touched my conscience as a citizen. [end recording]

Celestino Armas, minister of the Presidency Secretariat, also confirmed his resignation to join the political campaign. He said he is only waiting for the head of state to determine who will replace him in that post:

[Begin Armas recording] I had agreed with the president months ago that I would rejoin political activity to vie again for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. I am aware that this is a post of high trust and responsibility, thus I will wait patiently for the president to make a definite selection and announce his choice. [end recording]

'Thousands' of Workers March 1 May

PA0205034593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0105 GMT 2 May 93

[Report by Johnny Ficarella]

[Text] Venezuela's workers celebrated their day on 1 May. Here in our capital, thousands of workers participated in the march promoted by the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] and other labor unions. Since very early in the morning, the Caracas working class as well as labor union representatives gathered at different points in the capital from where they initiated their march demanding higher salaries.

Despite the constant rain on 1 May, thousands of workers marched in downtown Caracas in the traditional workers' march. It was headed by CTV President Gaston Vera.

The traditional workers' march left Plaza Carabobo at approximately 1000. Thousands of persons marched shouting slogans for higher salaries and better social benefits. All the labor unions that comprise the CTV were present. The workers marched down Mexico Avenue and ended their march at the Caracas cemetery.

Gaston Vera reiterated that the CTV will soon submit a salary increase bill in Congress in addition to other actions.

[Begin Vera recording] We are also going to request a freeze on staple items comprising the workers' diet because we cannot be earning salaries for just salt and water. We need a wage increase and a price freeze. [end recording]

It was a proper time to reflect on a strike that has taken place in the past few days, the teachers' strike. We hope a solution to this conflict is found next week.

Suriname President Visits, Signs Joint Declaration

PA3004195493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Suriname President Ronald Venetiaan announced on 29 April that he is studying the possibility of holding a summit with the presidents of Guyana and Venezuela to analyze and reach agreements over Essequibo problems.

The Suriname president clarified that it is not a question of Suriname and Venezuela establishing a common front against Guyana, but establishing a philosophy so the three countries can understand one another on the basis of the great friendship that unites them. He also said that he wants Venezuela to supply 1.9 million barrels of crude oil a year under the same conditions afforded to Guayana. As a result, Suriname has moved ahead to renegotiate its pending oil bill.

[Begin Venetiaan recording in Dutch with passage by passage translation into Spanish] I can say that on our part there is much hope. Anyway, this morning Suriname's Central Bank will discuss with its [words indistinct] counterpart to arrive at a final agreement. This is not a large sum of money—the total debt is about $1 million.... [pauses] The overdue debt amounts to about $1 million and the total amount is $2.5 million. [as heard] [end recording]

The presidents of Suriname and Venezuela previously signed a joint declaration stressing the need to increase economic opportunities that will boost trade between the two countries. To this avail, talks will begin that will allow Suriname to join the trade and investment agreement, which was signed by Venezuela and Colombia, with the Central American countries.

On the subject of technical cooperation, Venezuela will offer assistance in such fields as monetary policies and social programs. The joint declaration also served to reiterate the commitment to continue stimulating the democratization processes and to defend democratically established governments in Latin America.

Japanese Foreign Minister Meets With Perez

PA0105032793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Kabun Muto thanked Venezuela for supporting the proposal to expand the UN Permanent Security Council, which

Japan joined as a permanent member, during his first meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez on 30 April. Cecilia Pachano filed this report:

[Begin Pachano recording] The meeting between President Perez and Foreign Minister Muto lasted 45 minutes. They discussed foreign investment issues and new world economic realities. The Japanese foreign minister pointed out the high volume of Japanese capital investments made in Venezuela recently, thus placing our country in second place after the United States. He thinks that fact is illustrative of investors' trust in Venezuela's potential, which is also reflected in the Export-Import Bank's contributions of over $600 million for economic reform programs implemented by the current Venezuelan administration.

The Japanese foreign minister's visit is part of a tour of various countries prior to the Group of Seven [G-7] summit in Tokyo. Foreign Minister Muto took advantage of this opportunity to voice his country's support for actions in defense of democracy promoted by the Venezuelan Government.

President Perez voiced his wish that the economic and commercial rapprochement between the two nations will continue. He said Third World governments want the G-7 to assess the impact of current economic processes on less developed nations.

Foreign Minister Muto also thanked the Venezuelan Government and people for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to Prince Naruhito, heir to the Japanese throne. [end recording]